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(54) **METHODS FOR THE TREATMENT OF DUCHENNE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY**

VERFAHREN ZUR BEHANDLUNG VON DUCHENNE-MUSKELDYSTROPHIE

MÉTHODES POUR LE TRAITEMENT D'UNE DYSTROPHIE MUSCULAIRE DE DUCHENNE

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WO-A1-2015/183988 WO-A2-2013/030569  
US-A1- 2013 040 901 US-A1- 2014 234 255**

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(73) Proprietor: **Wilson, D. Travis  
Newton, Massachusetts 02461 (US)**

(72) Inventor: **Wilson, D. Travis  
Newton, Massachusetts 02461 (US)**

(74) Representative: **Barker Brettell LLP  
100 Hagley Road  
Edgbaston  
Birmingham B16 8QQ (GB)**

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**EP 3 399 993 B1**

**Description****TECHNICAL FIELD**

**[0001]** The present technology relates generally to a peptide or salt thereof for use in treating Duchenne muscular dystrophy in a subject in need thereof. Specifically, the present technology relates to the aromatic-cationic peptide, Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub> for using in treating Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

**BACKGROUND**

**[0002]** Muscular dystrophy (MD) is a group of inherited non-inflammatory but progressive muscle disorders without a central or peripheral nerve abnormality. Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) is the most common muscular dystrophy affecting 1 in 3500 young males born worldwide. DMD is caused by mutations in the dystrophin gene at locus Xp21, located on the short arm of the X chromosome. Dystrophin encodes a 427-kD protein that plays an integral role in the structural stability of the myofiber. Without dystrophin, muscles fibers are susceptible to mechanical injury, undergo necrosis and are ultimately replaced with adipose and connective tissue.

**[0003]** DMD is a progressive disease which eventually affects all voluntary muscles as well as cardiac and breathing muscles in later stages. Late-stage cardiac fibrosis can lead to output failure and pulmonary congestion, a common cause of death. Additionally, cardiac fibrosis can include cardiomyopathy and conduction abnormalities, which can induce fatal arrhythmias. The average life expectancy for individuals afflicted with DMD is around 25.

**[0004]** Although significant advances have been made in understanding the molecular underpinnings of the disorder, DMD remains an incurable illness WO 2013/030569, US 2014/234255, WO 2014/116981 disclose various approaches to the treatment of DMD. WO 2015/183988, Choa et al., Chao et al., disclose various therapeutic uses of SS-20. All documents discuss the activity of SS-20 in promoting respiration and reducing excess H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> formation.

**SUMMARY**

**[0005]** The invention is defined by the appended claims. In one aspect, the present disclosure provides peptide Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use in treating Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) in a human subject in need thereof. The subject may harbor a genetic alteration that disrupts the production or function of dystrophin protein. The genetic alteration may be a deletion, duplication, frameshift, or nonsense mutation of dystrophin. The pharmaceutically acceptable salt may comprise acetate, tartrate, or trifluoroacetate salt.

**[0006]** In some embodiments, the subject may have signs or symptoms of DM. The signs or symptoms of DMD may include one or more of progressive proximal weakness with onset in the legs and pelvis, hyperlordosis with wide-based gait, hypertrophy of weak muscles, pseudohypertrophy (enlargement of calf and deltoid muscles with fat and fibrotic tissue), reduced muscle contractility on electrical stimulation in advanced stages of the disease, delayed motor milestones, progressive inability to ambulate, heel cord contractures, paralysis, fatigue, skeletal deformities including scoliosis, muscle fiber deformities, cardiomyopathy, congestive heart failure or arrhythmia, muscular atrophy, respiratory disorders, and absence of bladder or bowel dysfunction, sensory disturbance, or febrile illness.

**[0007]** The subject may display elevated blood levels of creatine phosphokinase compared to a normal control subject. Treatment with the aromatic-cationic peptide may normalize creatine phosphokinase blood levels.

**[0008]** Administration of the aromatic-cationic peptide may result in an increase in utrophin expression levels and/or activity compared to an untreated DMD control subject. Administration of the aromatic-cationic peptide may result in an increase in IGF-1 expression levels and/or activity compared to an untreated DMD control subject. Administration of the aromatic-cationic peptide may result in an increase in follistatin expression levels and/or activity compared to an untreated DMD control subject.

**[0009]** Administration of the aromatic-cationic peptide may result in an increase in Galgt2 expression levels and/or activity compared to an untreated DMD control subject. Administration of the aromatic-cationic peptide may result in an increase in calpastatin expression levels and/or activity compared to an untreated DMD control subject. Administration of the aromatic-cationic peptide may result in a decrease in calpain expression levels and/or activity compared to an untreated DMD control subject.

**[0010]** In some embodiments of the methods of the present technology, the aromatic-cationic peptide is administered orally, topically, systemically, intravenously, subcutaneously, transdermally, iontophoretically, intranasally, intraperitoneally, or intramuscularly.

**[0011]** The aromatic-cationic peptide may be administered daily for 1 week or more. The aromatic-cationic peptide may be administered daily for 2 weeks or more. The aromatic-cationic peptide may be administered daily for 3 weeks or more. The aromatic-cationic peptide may be administered daily for 4 weeks or more. In some embodiments, the aromatic-cationic peptide is administered daily for 6 weeks or more. In some embodiments, the aromatic-cationic peptide

is administered daily for 12 weeks or more.

**[0012]** The method may comprise separately, sequentially or simultaneously administering an additional therapeutic agent to the subject. In some embodiments, the one or more additional therapeutic agents is/are selected from the group consisting of: corticosteroids, Oxandrolone, ACE inhibitors, P188 (Poloxamer 188), beta-blockers, diuretics, angiotensin receptor blockers (ARBs), idebenone, alendronate, calcium with vitamin D, albuterol, dantrolene, pentoxifylline, carnitine, Coenzyme Q10, creatine, fish oil, green tea extracts, Vitamin E, PTC-124 (PTC Therapeutics Inc., South Plainfield, NJ), AVI-4658 phosphorodiamidate morpholino oligomer, azathioprine and cyclosporine.

**[0013]** The method may further comprise separately, sequentially or simultaneously administering to the subject one or more ACE inhibitors (angiotensin II converting enzyme inhibitors) selected from the group consisting of captopril, alacepril, lisinopril, imidapril, quinapril, temocapril, delapril, benazepril, cilazapril, trandolapril, enalapril, ceronapril, fosinopril, imadapril, mobertpril, perindopril, ramipril, spirapril, randolapril and pharmaceutically acceptable salts of such compounds. There may be a synergistic effect between the aromatic-cationic peptide and the ACE inhibitors with respect to the prevention or treatment of DMD.

**[0014]** The method may further comprise separately, sequentially or simultaneously administering to the subject one or more ARBs selected from the group consisting of losartan, candesartan, valsartan, eprosartan, telmisartan, and irbesartan. There may be a synergistic effect between the aromatic-cationic peptide and the ARBs with respect to the prevention or treatment of DMD.

**[0015]** The disclosure also relates to a method for reducing progressive muscular dystrophy characterized by pseudohypertrophy in a mammalian subject having or suspected of having DMD, the method comprising: administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of the aromatic-cationic peptide 2'6'-Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, or D-Arg-2'6'-Dmt-Lys-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub> or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, the pharmaceutically acceptable salt may comprise acetate, tartrate, or trifluoroacetate salt.

**[0016]** The mammalian subject may show reduced dystrophin protein levels in muscle fibers compared to a normal control subject. The subject may harbor a mutation in the dystrophin gene. The subject may harbor a deletion, duplication, frameshift, or nonsense mutation in the dystrophin gene.

**[0017]** The mammalian subject may have elevated blood levels of creatine phosphokinase compared to a normal control subject.

**[0018]** The subject may be human. The aromatic-cationic peptide may be administered orally, topically, systemically, intravenously, subcutaneously, transdermally, iontophoretically, intranasally, intraperitoneally, or intramuscularly.

**[0019]** Administration of the aromatic-cationic peptide may result in an increase in utrophin expression levels and/or activity compared to an untreated DMD control subject. Administration of the aromatic-cationic peptide may result in an increase in IGF-1 expression levels and/or activity compared to an untreated DMD control subject. Administration of the aromatic-cationic peptide may result in an increase in follistatin expression levels and/or activity compared to an untreated DMD control subject. Administration of the aromatic-cationic peptide may result in an increase in Galgt2 expression levels and/or activity compared to an untreated DMD control subject. Administration of the aromatic-cationic peptide may result in an increase in calpastatin expression levels and/or activity compared to an untreated DMD control subject. Administration of the aromatic-cationic peptide may result in a decrease in calpain expression levels and/or activity compared to an untreated DMD control subject.

**[0020]** The disclosure also relates to methods for reducing the risk, signs or symptoms of DMD in a mammalian subject having decreased expression of dystrophin compared to a normal control subject. The method may include administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of the aromatic-cationic peptide 2'6'-Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, or D-Arg-2'6'-Dmt-Lys-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub> or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, thereby resulting in the prevention or delay of onset of one or more risks, signs or symptoms of DMD. The pharmaceutically acceptable salt may comprise acetate, tartrate, or trifluoroacetate salt.

**[0021]** The signs or symptoms of DMD may include one or more of progressive proximal weakness with onset in the legs and pelvis, hyperlordosis with wide-based gait, hypertrophy of weak muscles, pseudohypertrophy (enlargement of calf and deltoid muscles with fat and fibrotic tissue), reduced muscle contractility on electrical stimulation in advanced stages of the disease, delayed motor milestones, progressive inability to ambulate, heel cord contractures, paralysis, fatigue, skeletal deformities including scoliosis, muscle fiber deformities, cardiomyopathy, congestive heart failure or arrhythmia, muscular atrophy, respiratory disorders, and absence of bladder or bowel dysfunction, sensory disturbance, or febrile illness.

**[0022]** The subject may harbor a mutation in the dystrophin gene. The subject may be human.

**[0023]** The aromatic-cationic peptide may be administered orally, topically, systemically, intravenously, subcutaneously, transdermally, iontophoretically, intranasally, intraperitoneally, or intramuscularly.

**[0024]** The aromatic-cationic peptide may be administered daily for 1 week or more. The aromatic-cationic peptide may be administered daily for 2 weeks or more. The aromatic-cationic peptide may be administered daily for 3 weeks or more. The aromatic-cationic peptide may be administered daily for 4 weeks or more. The aromatic-cationic peptide may be administered daily for 6 weeks or more. The aromatic-cationic peptide may be administered daily for 12 weeks

or more.

**[0025]** The method may further comprise separately, sequentially or simultaneously administering to the subject one or more additional therapeutic agents selected from the group consisting of: corticosteroids, Oxandrolone, ACE inhibitors, P188 (Poloxamer 188), beta-blockers, diuretics, angiotensin receptor blockers (ARBs), idebenone, alendronate, calcium with vitamin D, albuterol, dantrolene, pentoxifylline, carnitine, Coenzyme Q10, creatine, fish oil, green tea extracts, Vitamin E, PTC-124 (PTC Therapeutics Inc., South Plainfield, NJ), AVI-4658 phosphorodiamidate morpholino oligomer, azathioprine and cyclosporine.

**[0026]** The method may further comprise separately, sequentially or simultaneously administering to the subject one or more ACE inhibitors (angiotensin II converting enzyme inhibitors) selected from the group consisting of captopril, alacepril, lisinopril, imidapril, quinapril, temocapril, delapril, benazepril, cilazapril, trandolapril, enalapril, ceronapril, fosinopril, imadapril, mobertpril, perindopril, ramipril, spirapril, randolapril and pharmaceutically acceptable salts of such compounds. There may be a synergistic effect between the aromatic-cationic peptide and the ACE inhibitors with respect to reducing the risk, signs or symptoms of DMD.

**[0027]** The method may further comprise separately, sequentially or simultaneously administering to the subject one or more ARBs selected from the group consisting of losartan, candesartan, valsartan, eprosartan, telmisartan, and irbesartan. There may be a synergistic effect between the aromatic-cationic peptide and the ARBs with respect to reducing the risk, signs or symptoms of DMD.

## **DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

**[0028]** It is to be appreciated that certain aspects, modes, embodiments, variations and features of the present technology are described below in various levels of detail in order to provide a substantial understanding of the present technology. The definitions of certain terms as used in this specification are provided below. Unless defined otherwise, all technical and scientific terms used herein generally have the same meaning as commonly understood by one of ordinary skill in the art to which this present technology belongs.

**[0029]** As used in this specification and the appended claims, the singular forms "a", "an" and "the" include plural referents unless the content clearly dictates otherwise. For example, reference to "a cell" includes a combination of two or more cells, and the like.

**[0030]** As used herein, the "administration" of an agent, drug, or peptide to a subject includes any route of introducing or delivering to a subject a compound to perform its intended function. Administration can be carried out by any suitable route, including orally, intranasally, parenterally (intravenously, intramuscularly, intraperitoneally, or subcutaneously), or topically. Administration includes self-administration and the administration by another.

**[0031]** As used herein, the term "amino acid" includes naturally-occurring amino acids and synthetic amino acids, as well as amino acid analogs and amino acid mimetics that function in a manner similar to the naturally-occurring amino acids. Naturally-occurring amino acids are those encoded by the genetic code, as well as those amino acids that are later modified, e.g., hydroxyproline,  $\gamma$ -carboxyglutamate, and O-phosphoserine. Amino acid analogs refers to compounds that have the same basic chemical structure as a naturally-occurring amino acid, i.e., an  $\alpha$ -carbon that is bound to a hydrogen, a carboxyl group, an amino group, and an R group, e.g., homoserine, norleucine, methionine sulfoxide, methionine methyl sulfonium. Such analogs have modified R groups (e.g., norleucine) or modified peptide backbones, but retain the same basic chemical structure as a naturally-occurring amino acid. Amino acid mimetics refers to chemical compounds that have a structure that is different from the general chemical structure of an amino acid, but that functions in a manner similar to a naturally-occurring amino acid. Amino acids can be referred to herein by either their commonly known three letter symbols or by the one-letter symbols recommended by the IUPAC-IUB Biochemical Nomenclature Commission.

**[0032]** As used herein, the term "effective amount" refers to a quantity sufficient to achieve a desired therapeutic and/or prophylactic effect, e.g., an amount which results in partial or full amelioration of one or more symptoms of DMD. The amount of a composition administered to the subject will depend on the type, degree, and severity of the disease and on the characteristics of the individual, such as general health, age, sex, body weight and tolerance to drugs. The skilled artisan will be able to determine appropriate dosages depending on these and other factors. The compositions can also be administered in combination with one or more additional therapeutic compounds. The aromatic-cationic peptide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, such as acetate, tartrate, hydrochloride salt, or trifluoroacetate salt, may be administered to a subject having one or more signs, symptoms, or risk factors of DMD, including, but not limited to, progressive proximal weakness with onset in the legs and pelvis, hyperlordosis with wide-based gait, hypertrophy of weak muscles, pseudohypertrophy (enlargement of calf and deltoid muscles with fat and fibrotic tissue), reduced muscle contractility on electrical stimulation in advanced stages of the disease, delayed motor milestones, progressive inability to ambulate, heel cord contractures, paralysis, fatigue, skeletal deformities including scoliosis, muscle fiber deformities, cardiomyopathy, congestive heart failure or arrhythmia, muscular atrophy, respiratory disorders, and absence of bladder or bowel dysfunction, sensory disturbance, or febrile illness. For example, a "therapeutically effective amount" of the

aromatic-cationic peptides includes levels at which the presence, frequency, or severity of one or more signs, symptoms, or risk factors of DMD are, at a minimum, ameliorated. A therapeutically effective amount reduces or ameliorates the physiological effects of DMD, and/or the risk factors of DMD, and/or the likelihood of developing DMD. A therapeutically effective amount can be given in one or more administrations.

**[0033]** As used herein, "isolated" or "purified" polypeptide or peptide refers to a polypeptide or peptide that is substantially free of cellular material or other contaminating polypeptides from the cell or tissue source from which the agent is derived, or substantially free from chemical precursors or other chemicals when chemically synthesized. For example, an isolated aromatic-cationic peptide would be free of materials that would interfere with diagnostic or therapeutic uses of the agent. Such interfering materials may include enzymes, hormones and other proteinaceous and nonproteinaceous solutes.

**[0034]** As used herein, the terms "polypeptide," "peptide," and "protein" are used interchangeably herein to mean a polymer comprising two or more amino acids joined to each other by peptide bonds or modified peptide bonds, *i.e.*, peptide isosteres. Polypeptide refers to both short chains, commonly referred to as peptides, glycopeptides or oligomers, and to longer chains, generally referred to as proteins. Polypeptides may contain amino acids other than the 20 gene-encoded amino acids. Polypeptides include amino acid sequences modified either by natural processes, such as post-translational processing, or by chemical modification techniques that are well known in the art.

**[0035]** As used herein, the terms "subject" and "patient" are used interchangeably.

**[0036]** As used herein, the term "simultaneous" therapeutic use refers to the administration of at least two active ingredients by the same route and at the same time or at substantially the same time.

**[0037]** As used herein, the term "separate" therapeutic use refers to an administration of at least two active ingredients at the same time or at substantially the same time by different routes.

**[0038]** As used herein, the term "sequential" therapeutic use refers to administration of at least two active ingredients at different times, the administration route being identical or different. More particularly, sequential use refers to the whole administration of one of the active ingredients before administration of the other or others commences. It is thus possible to administer one of the active ingredients over several minutes, hours, or days before administering the other active ingredient or ingredients. There is no simultaneous treatment in this case.

**[0039]** A "synergistic therapeutic effect" refers to a greater-than-additive therapeutic effect which is produced by a combination of at least two therapeutic agents, and which exceeds that which would otherwise result from the individual administration of the agents. For example, lower doses of one or more therapeutic agents may be used in treating DMD, resulting in increased therapeutic efficacy and decreased side-effects.

**[0040]** "Treating" or "treatment" as used herein covers the treatment of DMD, in a subject, such as a human, and includes: (i) inhibiting DMD, *i.e.*, arresting its development; (ii) relieving DMD, *i.e.*, causing regression of the disorder; (iii) slowing the progression of DMD; and/or (iv) inhibiting, relieving, or slowing progression of one or more symptoms of DMD.

**[0041]** As used herein, "preventing" or "prevention" of a disorder or condition refers to a compound that, in a statistical sample, reduces the occurrence of the disorder or condition in the treated sample relative to an untreated control sample, or delays the onset of one or more symptoms of the disorder or condition relative to the untreated control sample. As used herein, preventing DMD includes preventing or delaying the initiation of DMD. As used herein, prevention of DMD also includes preventing a recurrence of one or more signs or symptoms of DMD.

**[0042]** It is also to be appreciated that the various modes of treatment or prevention of medical conditions as described herein are intended to mean "substantial," which includes total but also less than total treatment or prevention, and wherein some biologically or medically relevant result is achieved. The treatment may be a continuous prolonged treatment for a chronic disease or a single, or few time administrations for the treatment of an acute condition.

#### Aromatic-Cationic Peptides

**[0043]** The aromatic-cationic peptides preferably include a minimum of three amino acids, covalently joined by peptide bonds.

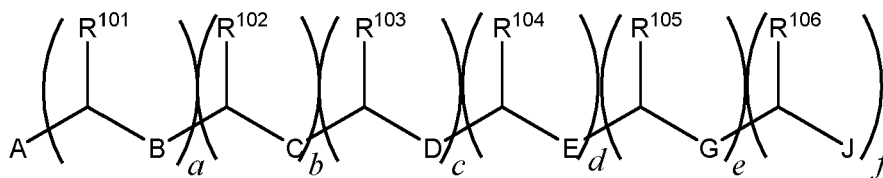
**[0044]** The maximum number of amino acids present in the aromatic-cationic peptides may be about twenty amino acids covalently joined by peptide bonds. The total number of amino acids may be about twelve. The total number of amino acids may be about nine. The total number of amino acids may be about six. The total number of amino acids may be four.

**[0045]** The disclosure also relates to aromatic-cationic peptide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof such as acetate salt, tartrate salt, fumarate salt, hydrochloride salt, or trifluoroacetate salt. The peptide may comprise at least one net positive charge; a minimum of three amino acids; a maximum of about twenty amino acids; a relationship between the minimum number of net positive charges ( $p_m$ ) and the total number of amino acid residues ( $r$ ) wherein  $3p_m$  is the largest number that is less than or equal to  $r + 1$ ; and a relationship between the minimum number of aromatic groups ( $a$ ) and the total number of net positive charges ( $p_t$ )

wherein  $2a$  is the largest number that is less than or equal to  $p_t + 1$ , except that when  $a$  is 1,  $p_t$  may also be 1.

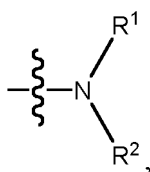
**[0046]** The peptide may be defined by Formula I:

Formula I

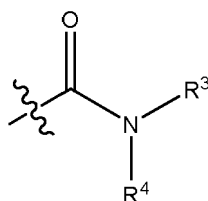


wherein:

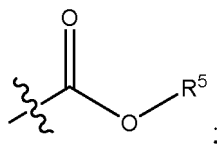
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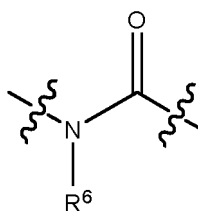
and the other of A and J is



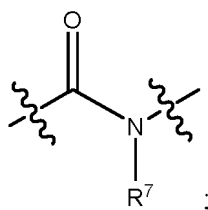
or



B, C, D, E, and G are each

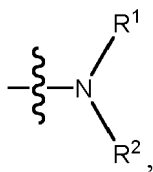


or B, C, D, E, and G are each



with the proviso that when f is 0 and J is not a terminal group, the terminal group is one of G, E, D or C, such that one of A and the terminal group is

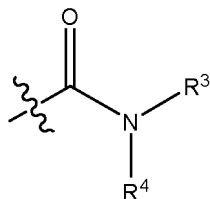
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and  
the other of A and the terminal group is

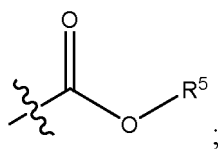
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or

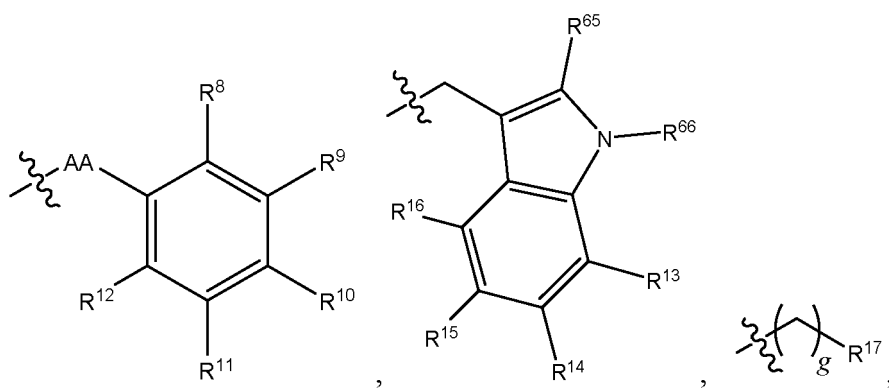
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R<sup>101</sup> is

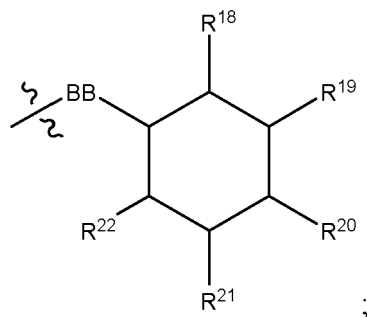
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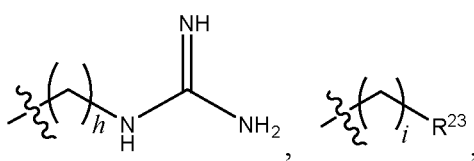
or

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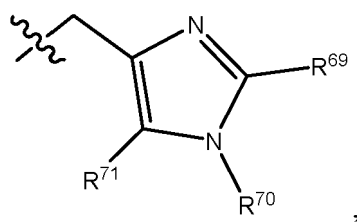
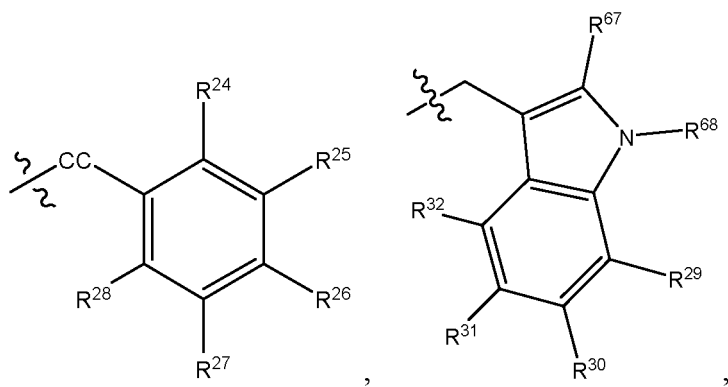
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R<sup>102</sup> is

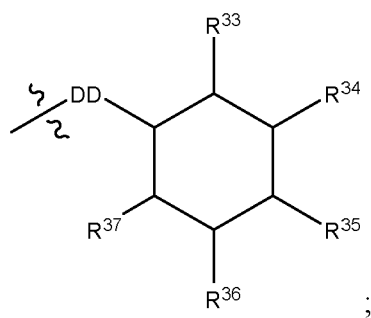


or hydrogen;

R<sup>103</sup> is



or

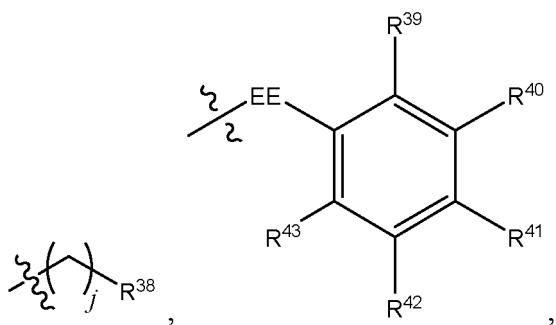


R<sup>104</sup> is



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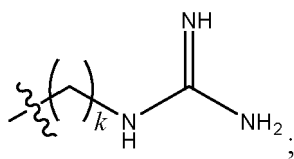
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or

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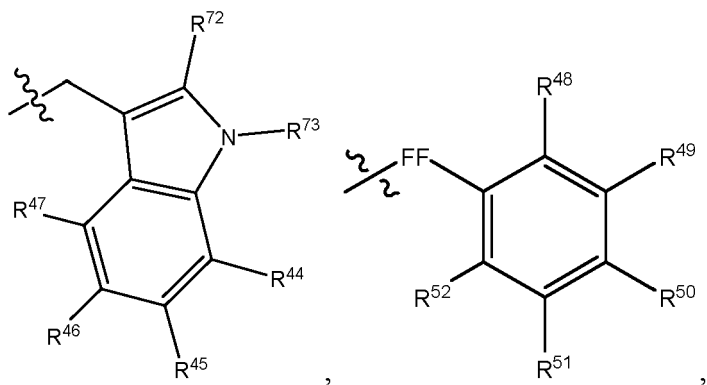
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$R^{105}$  is

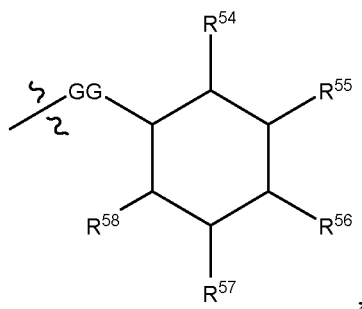
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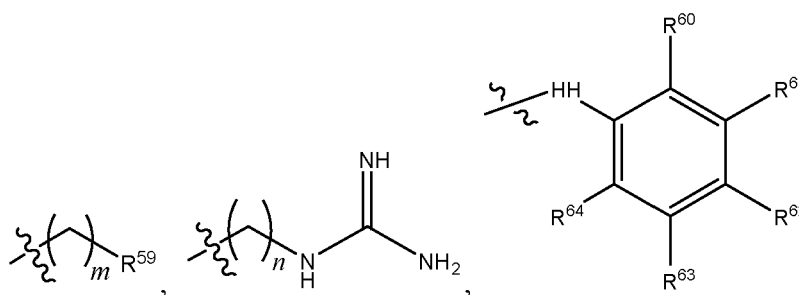
45

or hydrogen;

50

$R^{106}$  is

55



or hydrogen; provided that when  $R^{102}$ ,  $R^{104}$ , and  $R^{106}$  are identical, then  $R^{101}$ ,  $R^{103}$ , and  $R^{105}$  are not identical; wherein

$R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ , and  $R^5$  are each independently a hydrogen or substituted or unsubstituted  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_6$  alkenyl,  $C_2$ - $C_6$  alkynyl, saturated or unsaturated cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, 5- or 6- membered saturated or unsaturated heterocyl, heteroaryl, or amino protecting group; or  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  together form a 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8 membered substituted or unsubstituted heterocycyl ring;

$R^6$  and  $R^7$  at each occurrence are independently a hydrogen or substituted or unsubstituted  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl group;  $R^8$ ,  $R^9$ ,  $R^{10}$ ,  $R^{11}$ ,  $R^{12}$ ,  $R^{13}$ ,  $R^{14}$ ,  $R^{15}$ ,  $R^{16}$ ,  $R^{18}$ ,  $R^{19}$ ,  $R^{20}$ ,  $R^{21}$ ,  $R^{22}$ ,  $R^{24}$ ,  $R^{25}$ ,  $R^{26}$ ,  $R^{27}$ ,  $R^{28}$ ,  $R^{29}$ ,  $R^{30}$ ,  $R^{31}$ ,  $R^{32}$ ,  $R^{33}$ ,  $R^{34}$ ,  $R^{35}$ ,  $R^{36}$ ,  $R^{37}$ ,  $R^{39}$ ,  $R^{40}$ ,  $R^{41}$ ,  $R^{42}$ ,  $R^{43}$ ,  $R^{44}$ ,  $R^{45}$ ,  $R^{46}$ ,  $R^{47}$ ,  $R^{48}$ ,  $R^{49}$ ,  $R^{50}$ ,  $R^{51}$ ,  $R^{52}$ ,  $R^{54}$ ,  $R^{55}$ ,  $R^{56}$ ,  $R^{57}$ ,  $R^{58}$ ,  $R^{60}$ ,  $R^{61}$ ,  $R^{62}$ ,  $R^{63}$ ,  $R^{64}$ ,  $R^{65}$ ,  $R^{67}$ ,  $R^{69}$ ,  $R^{71}$ , and  $R^{72}$  are each independently a hydrogen, amino, amido,  $-\text{NO}_2$ ,  $-\text{CN}$ ,  $-\text{OR}^a$ ,  $-\text{SR}^a$ ,  $-\text{NR}^a\text{R}^a$ ,  $-\text{F}$ ,  $-\text{Cl}$ ,  $-\text{Br}$ ,  $-\text{I}$ , or a substituted or unsubstituted  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkoxy,  $-\text{C}(\text{O})$ -alkyl,  $-\text{C}(\text{O})$ -aryl,  $-\text{C}(\text{O})$ -aralkyl,  $-\text{C}(\text{O})_2\text{R}^a$ ,  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkylamino,  $C_1$ - $C_4$  dialkylamino, or perhaloalkyl group;  $R^{66}$ ,  $R^{68}$ ,  $R^{70}$ , and  $R^{73}$  are each independently a hydrogen or substituted or unsubstituted  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl group;  $R^{17}$ ,  $R^{23}$ ,  $R^{38}$ ,  $R^{53}$ , and  $R^{59}$  are each independently a hydrogen,  $-\text{OR}^a$ ,  $-\text{SR}^a$ ,  $-\text{NR}^a\text{R}^a$ ,  $-\text{NR}^a\text{R}^b$ ,  $-\text{CO}_2\text{R}^a$ ,  $-(\text{CO})\text{NR}^a\text{R}^a$ ,  $-\text{NR}^a(\text{CO})\text{R}^a$ ,  $-\text{NR}^a\text{C}(\text{NH})\text{NH}_2$ ,  $-\text{NR}^a$ -dansyl, or a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, aryl, or aralkyl group;

$\text{AA}$ ,  $\text{BB}$ ,  $\text{CC}$ ,  $\text{DD}$ ,  $\text{EE}$ ,  $\text{FF}$ ,  $\text{GG}$ , and  $\text{HH}$  are each independently absent,  $-\text{NH}(\text{CO})-$ , or  $-\text{CH}_2-$ ;

$\text{R}^a$  at each occurrence is independently a hydrogen or a substituted or unsubstituted  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl group;

$\text{R}^b$  at each occurrence is independently a  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylene- $\text{NR}^a$ -dansyl or  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylene- $\text{NR}^a$ -anthraniloyl group;

$a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$ ,  $d$ ,  $e$ , and  $f$  are each independently 0 or 1, with the proviso that  $a + b + c + d + e + f \geq 2$ ;

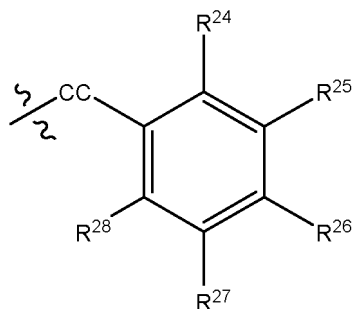
$g$ ,  $h$ ,  $k$ ,  $m$ , and  $n$  are each independently 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5; and

$i$ ,  $j$ , and  $l$  are each independently 2, 3, 4, or 5;

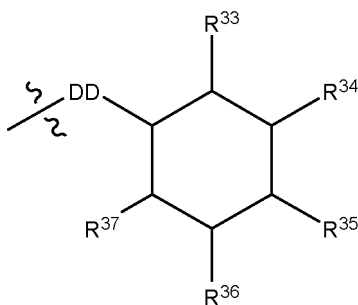
provided that

when  $i$  is 4 and  $\text{R}^{23}$  is  $-\text{SR}^a$ , or  $j$  is 4 and  $\text{R}^{38}$  is  $-\text{SR}^a$ , or  $l$  is 4 and  $\text{R}^{53}$  is  $-\text{SR}^a$ , then the  $\text{R}^a$  of the  $-\text{SR}^a$  is a substituted or unsubstituted  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl group;

when  $\text{J}$  is  $-\text{NH}_2$ ,  $b$  and  $d$  are 0,  $a$ ,  $c$ ,  $e$ ,  $f$  are 1, then  $\text{R}^{103}$  is



or



[0047] Alternatively, in peptides of Formula I,

$R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ , and  $R^5$  are each independently a hydrogen or substituted or unsubstituted  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl group;

$R^6$  and  $R^7$  at each occurrence are independently a hydrogen or methyl group;

$R^8$ ,  $R^{12}$ ,  $R^{18}$ ,  $R^{22}$ ,  $R^{24}$ ,  $R^{28}$ ,  $R^{33}$ ,  $R^{37}$ ,  $R^{39}$ ,  $R^{43}$ ,  $R^{48}$ ,  $R^{52}$ ,  $R^{54}$ ,  $R^{58}$ ,  $R^{60}$ , and  $R^{64}$  are each independently a hydrogen or methyl group;

$R^{10}$ ,  $R^{20}$ ,  $R^{26}$ ,  $R^{35}$ ,  $R^{41}$ ,  $R^{50}$ ,  $R^{56}$ , and  $R^{62}$  are each independently a hydrogen or  $-OR^a$ ;

$R^9$ ,  $R^{11}$ ,  $R^{19}$ ,  $R^{21}$ ,  $R^{25}$ ,  $R^{27}$ ,  $R^{34}$ ,  $R^{36}$ ,  $R^{40}$ ,  $R^{42}$ ,  $R^{49}$ ,  $R^{51}$ ,  $R^{55}$ ,  $R^{57}$ ,  $R^{61}$ ,  $R^{63}$ ,  $R^{65}$ ,  $R^{66}$ ,  $R^{67}$ ,  $R^{68}$ ,  $R^{69}$ ,  $R^{70}$ ,  $R^{71}$ ,  $R^{72}$ , and  $R^{73}$  are each a hydrogen;

$R^{17}$ ,  $R^{23}$ ,  $R^{38}$ ,  $R^{53}$ , and  $R^{59}$  are each independently a hydrogen,  $-OH$ ,  $-SH$ ,  $-SCH_3$ ,  $-NH_2$ ,  $-NHR^b$ ,  $-CO_2H$ ,  $-(CO)NH_2$ ,  $-NH(CO)H$ , or  $-NH$ -dansyl group;

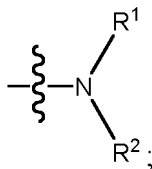
AA, BB, CC, DD, EE, FF, GG, and HH are each independently absent or  $-CH_2-$ ;

$R^a$  at each occurrence is independently a hydrogen or a substituted or unsubstituted  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl group;

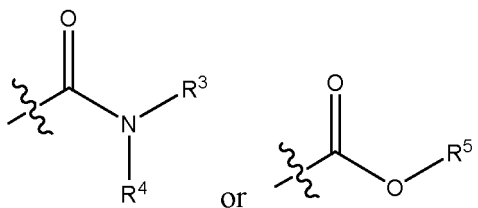
$R^b$  at each occurrence is independently an ethylene-NH-dansyl or ethylene-NH-anthraniloyl group.

[0048] Alternatively, in Formula I,

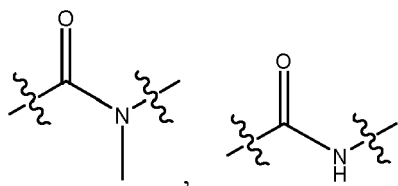
A is



J is



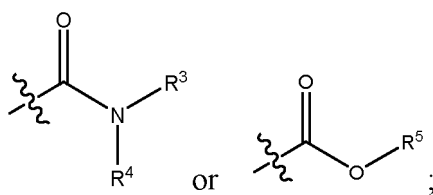
B, C, D, E, and G are each independently



or absent;  
with the proviso when  $f$  is 0, G is

5

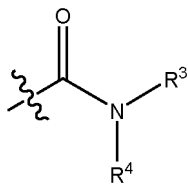
10



when  $e$  and  $f$  are 0, E is

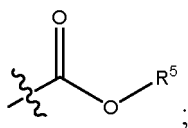
15

20



or

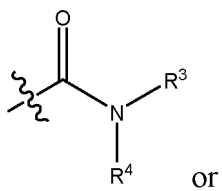
25



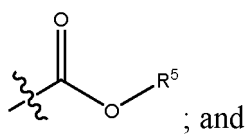
when  $d$ ,  $e$ , and  $f$  are 0, D is

30

35



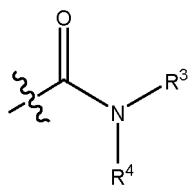
40



when  $c$ ,  $d$ ,  $e$ , and  $f$  are 0, C is

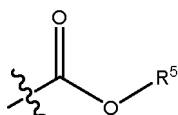
45

50



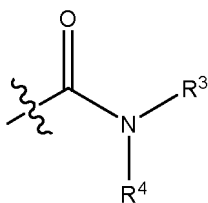
or

55

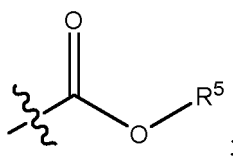


[0049] Alternatively, in Formula I,

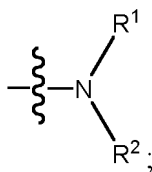
A is



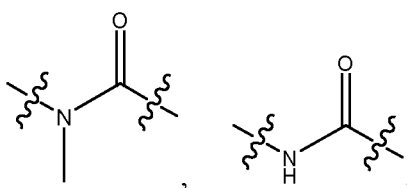
or



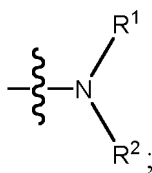
J is



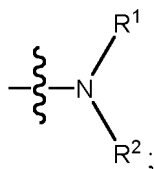
B, C, D, E, and G are each independently



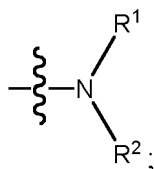
or absent;  
with the proviso when  $f$  is 0, G is



when  $e$  and  $f$  are 0, E is

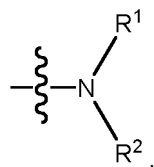


when  $d$ ,  $e$ , and  $f$  are 0, D is



and

when  $c$ ,  $d$ ,  $e$ , and  $f$  are 0, C is



**[0050]** In Formula I, at least one of  $R^{101}$ ,  $R^{102}$ ,  $R^{104}$ ,  $R^{105}$ , and  $R^{106}$  may be a basic group, as defined above, and at least one of  $R^{101}$ ,  $R^{103}$ ,  $R^{104}$ ,  $R^{105}$ , and  $R^{106}$  is a neutral group as defined above. The neutral group may be an aromatic, heterocyclic or cycloalkyl group as defined above. The peptide may contain at least one arginine, such as, but not limited to D-arginine, and at least one 2',6'-dimethyltyrosine, tyrosine, or phenylalanine.  $R^{101}$  may be an alkylguanidinium group.

**[0051]** The peptide may be selected from the peptides shown in Tables A or B.

**TABLE A**

Tyr-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH <sub>2</sub>
D-Arg-Dmt-Lys-Phe-NH <sub>2</sub>
D-Arg-Dmt-Phe-Lys-NH <sub>2</sub>
D-Arg-Phe-Lys-Dmt-NH <sub>2</sub>
D-Arg-Phe-Dmt-Lys-NH <sub>2</sub>
D-Arg-Lys-Dmt-Phe-NH <sub>2</sub>
D-Arg-Lys-Phe-Dmt-NH <sub>2</sub>
D-Arg-Dmt-Lys-Phe-Cys-NH <sub>2</sub>
Phe-Lys-Dmt-D-Arg-NH <sub>2</sub>
Phe-Lys-D-Arg-Dmt-NH <sub>2</sub>
Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH <sub>2</sub>
Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-Cys-NH <sub>2</sub>
Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-Ser-Cys-NH <sub>2</sub>
Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-Gly-Cys-NH <sub>2</sub>
Phe-D-Arg-Dmt-Lys-NH <sub>2</sub>
Phe-D-Arg-Dmt-Lys-Cys-NH <sub>2</sub>
Phe-D-Arg-Dmt-Lys-Ser-Cys-NH <sub>2</sub>

(continued)

TABLE A

5

Phe-D-Arg-Dmt-Lys-Gly-Cys-NH<sub>2</sub>Phe-D-Arg-Lys-Dmt-NH<sub>2</sub>Phe-Dmt-D-Arg-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>Phe-Dmt-Lys-D-Arg-NH<sub>2</sub>

10

Lys-Phe-D-Arg-Dmt-NH<sub>2</sub>Lys-Phe-Dmt-D-Arg-NH<sub>2</sub>Lys-Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>

15

Lys-Dmt-Phe-D-Arg-NH<sub>2</sub>Lys-D-Arg-Phe-Dmt-NH<sub>2</sub>Lys-D-Arg-Dmt-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>D-Arg-Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>

20

D-Arg-Dmt-D-Arg-Dmt-NH<sub>2</sub>D-Arg-Dmt-D-Arg-Tyr-NH<sub>2</sub>D-Arg-Dmt-D-Arg-Trp-NH<sub>2</sub>

25

Trp-D-Arg-Tyr-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>Trp-D-Arg-Trp-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>Trp-D-Arg-Dmt-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>D-Arg-Trp-Lys-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>

30

D-Arg-Trp-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>D-Arg-Trp-Lys-Dmt-NH<sub>2</sub>D-Arg-Trp-Dmt-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>

35

D-Arg-Lys-Trp-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>D-Arg-Lys-Trp-Dmt-NH<sub>2</sub>Cha-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>Ala-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>

40

2',6'-Dmp-D-Arg-2',6'-Dmt-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>2',6'-Dmp-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>2',6'-Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-Orn-NH<sub>2</sub>

45

2',6'-Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-Ahp-NH<sub>2</sub>2',6'-Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>2',6'-Dmt-D-Cit-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>D-Arg-2',6'-Dmt-Lys-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>

50

D-Tyr-Trp-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>Lys-D-Arg-Tyr-NH<sub>2</sub>Met-Tyr-D-Arg-Phe-Arg-NH<sub>2</sub>

55

Met-Tyr-D-Lys-Phe-Arg

Phe-Arg-D-His-Asp

Phe-D-Arg-2',6'-Dmt-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>

(continued)

TABLE A	
5	Phe-D-Arg-His
	Trp-D-Lys-Tyr-Arg-NH <sub>2</sub>
	Tyr-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-Glu-NH <sub>2</sub>
	Tyr-His-D-Gly-Met
10	D-Arg-Tyr-Lys-Phe-NH <sub>2</sub>
	D-Arg-D-Dmt-Lys-Phe-NH <sub>2</sub>
	D-Arg-Dmt-D-Lys-Phe-NH <sub>2</sub>
15	D-Arg-Dmt-Lys-D-Phe-NH <sub>2</sub>
	D-Arg-D-Dmt-D-Lys-D-Phe-NH <sub>2</sub>
	Phe-D-Arg-D-Phe-Lys-NH <sub>2</sub>
	Phe-D-Arg-Phe-D-Lys-NH <sub>2</sub>
20	D-Phe-D-Arg-D-Phe-D-Lys-NH <sub>2</sub>
	Lys-D-Phe-Arg-Dmt-NH <sub>2</sub>
	D-Arg-Arg-Dmt-Phe-NH <sub>2</sub>
25	Dmt-D-Phe -Arg-Lys-NH <sub>2</sub>
	Phe-D-Dmt-Arg-Lys-NH <sub>2</sub>
	D-Arg-Dmt-Lys-NH <sub>2</sub>
	Arg-D-Dmt-Lys-NH <sub>2</sub>
30	D-Arg-Dmt-Phe-NH <sub>2</sub>
	Arg-D-Dmt-Arg-NH <sub>2</sub>
	Dmt-D-Arg-NH <sub>2</sub>
35	D-Arg-Dmt-NH <sub>2</sub>
	D-Dmt-Arg-NH <sub>2</sub>
	Arg-D-Dmt-NH <sub>2</sub>
	D-Arg-D-Dmt-NH <sub>2</sub>
40	D-Arg-D-Tyr-Lys-Phe-NH <sub>2</sub>
	D-Arg-Tyr-D-Lys-Phe-NH <sub>2</sub>
	D-Arg-Tyr-Lys-D-Phe-NH <sub>2</sub>
45	D-Arg-D-Tyr-D-Lys-D-Phe-NH <sub>2</sub>
	Lys-D-Phe-Arg-Tyr-NH <sub>2</sub>
	D-Arg-Arg-Tyr-Phe-NH <sub>2</sub>
	Tyr-D-Phe-Arg-Lys-NH <sub>2</sub>
50	Phe-D-Tyr-Arg-Lys-NH <sub>2</sub>
	D-Arg-Tyr-Lys-NH <sub>2</sub>
	Arg-D-Tyr-Lys-NH <sub>2</sub>
55	D-Arg-Tyr-Phe-NH <sub>2</sub>
	Arg-D-Tyr-Arg-NH <sub>2</sub>
	Tyr-D-Arg-NH <sub>2</sub>



(continued)

TABLE A

	<i>D</i> -Arg-Tyr-NH <sub>2</sub>
5	<i>D</i> -Tyr-Arg-NH <sub>2</sub>
	Arg- <i>D</i> -Tyr-NH <sub>2</sub>
	<i>D</i> -Arg- <i>D</i> -Tyr-NH <sub>2</sub>
10	Dmt-Lys-Phe-NH <sub>2</sub>
	Lys-Dmt- <i>D</i> -Arg-NH <sub>2</sub>
	Phe-Lys-Dmt-NH <sub>2</sub>
15	<i>D</i> -Arg-Phe-Lys-NH <sub>2</sub>
	<i>D</i> -Arg-Cha-Lys-NH <sub>2</sub>
	<i>D</i> -Arg-Trp-Lys-NH <sub>2</sub>
	Dmt-Lys- <i>D</i> -Phe-NH <sub>2</sub>
20	Dmt-Lys-NH <sub>2</sub>
	Lys-Phe-NH <sub>2</sub>
	<i>D</i> -Arg-Cha-Lys-Cha-NH <sub>2</sub>
25	<i>D</i> -Nle-Dmt-Ahp-Phe-NH <sub>2</sub>
	<i>D</i> -Nle-Cha-Ahp-Cha-NH <sub>2</sub>
	D-Arg-Dmt-D-Lys-NH <sub>2</sub>
	D-Arg-Dmt-D-Lys-Phe-NH <sub>2</sub>
30	Lys-Trp-D-Arg-NH <sub>2</sub>
	H-Lys-D-Phe-Arg-Dmt-NH <sub>2</sub>
	H-D-Arg-Lys-Dmt-Phe-NH <sub>2</sub>
35	H-D-Arg-Lys-Phe-Dmt-NH <sub>2</sub>
	H-D-Arg-Arg-Dmt-Phe-NH <sub>2</sub>
	H-D-Arg-Dmt-Phe-Lys-NH <sub>2</sub>
	H-D-Arg-Phe-Dmt-Lys-NH <sub>2</sub>
40	H-Dmt-D-Phe-Arg-Lys-NH <sub>2</sub>
	H-Phe-D-Dmt-Arg-Lys-NH <sub>2</sub>
	H-D-Arg-Dmt-Lys-NH <sub>2</sub>
45	H-D-Arg-Dmt-D-Lys-D-Phe-NH <sub>2</sub>
	H-D-Arg-D-Dmt-Lys-Phe-NH <sub>2</sub>
	H-D-Arg-Dmt-Phe-NH <sub>2</sub>
	H-Dmt-D-Arg-NH <sub>2</sub>
50	H-Phe-D-Arg-D-Phe-Lys-NH <sub>2</sub>
	H-Phe-D-Arg-Phe-D-Lys-NH <sub>2</sub>
	H-D-Phe-D-Arg-D-Phe-D-Lys-NH <sub>2</sub>
55	H-D-Arg-D-Dmt-D-Lys-D-Phe-NH <sub>2</sub>
	H-D-Arg-Cha-Lys-NH <sub>2</sub>
	H-D-Arg-Cha-Lys-Cha-NH <sub>2</sub>

(continued)

TABLE A

5

H-Arg-D-Dmt-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>H-Arg-D-Dmt-Arg-NH<sub>2</sub>H-D-Dmt-Arg-NH<sub>2</sub>H-Arg-D-Dmt-NH<sub>2</sub>

10

H-D-Arg-D-Dmt-NH<sub>2</sub>

Arg-Arg-Dmt-Phe

Arg-Cha-Lys

15

Arg-Dmt

Arg-Dmt-Arg

Arg-Dmt-Lys

Arg-Dmt-Lys-Phe

20

Arg-Dmt-Lys-Phe-Cys

Arg-Dmt-Phe

Arg-Dmt-Phe-Lys

25

Arg-Lys-Dmt-Phe

Arg-Lys-Phe-Dmt

Arg-Phe-Dmt-Lys

Arg-Phe-Lys

30

Arg-Trp-Lys

Arg-Tyr-Lys

Arg-Tyr-Lys-Phe

35

D-Arg-D-Dmt-D-Lys-L-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>D-Arg-D-Dmt-L-Lys-D-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>D-Arg-D-Dmt-L-Lys-L-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>D-Arg-Dmt-D-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>

40

D-Arg-Dmt-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>

D-Arg-Dmt-Lys-Phe-Cys

D-Arg-L-Dmt-D-Lys-D-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>

45

D-Arg-L-Dmt-D-Lys-L-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>D-Arg-L-Dmt-L-Lys-D-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>

Dmt-Arg

Dmt-Lys

50

Dmt-Lys-Phe

Dmt-Phe-Arg-Lys

H-Arg-D-Dmt-Lys-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>

55

H-Arg-Dmt-Lys-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>H-D-Arg-2,6-dichloro-L-tyrosine-L-Lys-L-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>H-D-Arg-2,6-dichlorotyrosine-Lys-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>

(continued)

TABLE A

5

H-D-Arg-2,6-difluoro-L-tyrosine-L-Lys-L-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>H-D-Arg-2,6-difluorotyrosine-Lys-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>H-D-Arg-2,6-dimethyl-L-phenylalanine-L-Lys-L-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>H-D-Arg-2,6-dimethylphenylalanine-Lys-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>

10

H-D-Arg-4-methoxy-2,6-dimethyl-L-phenylalanine-L-Lys-L-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>H-D-Arg-4-methoxy-2,6-dimethylphenylalanine-Lys-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>H-D-Arg-Dmt-Lys-2,6-dimethylphenylalanine-NH<sub>2</sub>

15

H-D-Arg-Dmt-Lys-3-hydroxyphenylalanine-NH<sub>2</sub>H-D-Arg-Dmt-N6-acetyllysine-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>H-D-Arg-D-Phe-L-Lys-L-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>H-D-Arg-D-Trp-L-Lys-L-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>

20

H-D-Arg-D-Tyr-L-Lys-L-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>H-D-Arg-L-Dmt-L-Lys-2,6-dimethyl-L-phenylalanine-NH<sub>2</sub>H-D-Arg-L-Dmt-L-Lys-3-hydroxy-L-phenylalanine-NH<sub>2</sub>

25

H-D-Arg-L-Dmt-L-Lys-D-Dmt-NH<sub>2</sub>H-D-Arg-L-Dmt-L-Lys-D- Trp-NH<sub>2</sub>H-D-Arg-L-Dmt-L-Lys-D- Tyr-NH<sub>2</sub>H-D-Arg-L-Dmt-L-Lys-L-Dmt-NH<sub>2</sub>

30

H-D-Arg-L-Dmt-L-Lys-L- Trp-NH<sub>2</sub>H-D-Arg-L-Dmt-L-Lys-L- Tyr-NH<sub>2</sub>H-D-Arg-L-Dmt-L-Phe-L-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>

35

H-D-Arg-L-Dmt-N6-acetyl-L-lysine-L-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>H-D-Arg-L-Lys-L-Dmt-L-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>H-D-Arg-L-Lys-L-Phe-L-Dmt-NH<sub>2</sub>H-D-Arg-L-Phe-L-Dmt-L-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>

40

H-D-Arg-L-Phe-L-Lys-L-Dmt-NH<sub>2</sub>H-D-Arg-L-Phe-L-Lys-L-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>H-D-Arg-L-Trp-L-Lys-L-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>

45

H-D-Arg-L-Tyr-L-Lys-L-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>H-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-Dmt-NH<sub>2</sub>H-D-Arg-Tyr-Lys-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>H-D-His-L-Dmt-L-Lys-L-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>

50

H-D-Lys-L-Dmt-L-Lys-L-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>H-Dmt-D-Arg-Lys-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>H-Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>

55

H-Dmt-Lys-D-Arg-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>H-Dmt-Lys-Phe-D-Arg-NH<sub>2</sub>H-Dmt-Phe-D-Arg-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>

(continued)

TABLE A

5

H-Dmt-Phe-Lys-D-Arg-NH<sub>2</sub>H-L-Dmt-D-Arg-L-Lys-L-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>H-L-Dmt-D-Arg-L-Phe-L-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>H-L-Dmt-L-Lys-D-Arg-L-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>

10

H-L-Dmt-L-Lys-L-Phe-D-Arg-NH<sub>2</sub>H-L-Dmt-L-Phe-D-Arg-L-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>H-L-Dmt-L-Phe-L-Lys-D-Arg-NH<sub>2</sub>

15

H-L-His-L-Dmt-L-Lys-L-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>H-L-Lys-D-Arg-L-Dmt-L-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>H-L-Lys-D-Arg-L-Phe-L-Dmt-NH<sub>2</sub>H-L-Lys-L-Dmt-D-Arg-L-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>

20

H-L-Lys-L-Dmt-L-Lys-L-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>H-L-Lys-L-Dmt-L-Phe-D-Arg-NH<sub>2</sub>H-L-Lys-L-Phe-D-Arg-L-Dmt-NH<sub>2</sub>

25

H-L-Lys-L-Phe-L-Dmt-D-Arg-NH<sub>2</sub>H-L-Phe-D-Arg-L-Dmt-L-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>H-L-Phe-D-Arg-L-Lys-L-Dmt-NH<sub>2</sub>H-L-Phe-L-Dmt-D-Arg-L-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>

30

H-L-Phe-L-Dmt-L-Lys-D-Arg-NH<sub>2</sub>H-L-Phe-L-Lys-D-Arg-L-Dmt-NH<sub>2</sub>H-L-Phe-L-Lys-L-Dmt-D-Arg-NH<sub>2</sub>

35

H-Lys-D-Arg-Dmt-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>H-Lys-D-Arg-Phe-Dmt-NH<sub>2</sub>H-Lys-Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>H-Lys-Dmt-Phe-D-Arg-NH<sub>2</sub>

40

H-Lys-Phe-D-Arg-Dmt-NH<sub>2</sub>H-Lys-Phe-Dmt-D-Arg-NH<sub>2</sub>H-Phe-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>

45

H-Phe-D-Arg-Dmt-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>H-Phe-D-Arg-Lys-Dmt-NH<sub>2</sub>H-Phe-Dmt-D-Arg-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>H-Phe-Dmt-Lys-D-Arg-NH<sub>2</sub>

50

H-Phe-Lys-D-Arg-Dmt-NH<sub>2</sub>H-Phe-Lys-Dmt-D-Arg-NH<sub>2</sub>L-Arg-D-Dmt-D-Lys-D-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>

55

L-Arg-D-Dmt-D-Lys-L-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>L-Arg-D-Dmt-L-Lys-D-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>L-Arg-D-Dmt-L-Lys-L-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>

(continued)

TABLE A

5

L-Arg-L-Dmt-D-Lys-D-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>L-Arg-L-Dmt-D-Lys-L-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>L-Arg-L-Dmt-L-Lys-D-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>L-Arg-L-Dmt-L-Lys-L-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>

10

Lys-Dmt-Arg

Lys-Phe

Lys-Phe-Arg-Dmt

15

Lys-Trp-Arg

Phe-Arg-Dmt-Lys

Phe-Arg-Phe-Lys

Phe-Dmt-Arg-Lys

20

Phe-Lys-Dmt

Arg-Dmt-Lys-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>Phe-Dmt-Arg-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>

25

Phe-Lys-Dmt-Arg-NH<sub>2</sub>Dmt-Arg-Lys-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>Lys-Dmt-Arg-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>Phe-Dmt-Lys-Arg-NH<sub>2</sub>

30

Arg-Lys-Dmt-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>Arg-Dmt-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>D-Arg-Dmt-Lys-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>

35

H-Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-Cys-NH<sub>2</sub>D-Arg-Dmt-Lys-Trp-NH<sub>2</sub>D-Arg-Trp-Lys-Trp-NH<sub>2</sub>

40

H-D-Arg-Dmt-Lys-Phe(NMe)-NH<sub>2</sub>H-D-Arg-Dmt-Lys(*N*<sup>α</sup>Me)-Phe(NMe)-NH<sub>2</sub>H-D-Arg(*N*<sup>α</sup>Me)-Dmt(NMe)-Lys(*N*<sup>α</sup>Me)-Phe(NMe)-NH<sub>2</sub>

45

D-Arg-2'6'Dmt-Lys-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>H-Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-Cys-NH<sub>2</sub>D-Arg-Dmt-Lys-Phe-Ser-Cys-NH<sub>2</sub>D-Arg-Dmt-Lys-Phe-Gly-Cys-NH<sub>2</sub>

50

Gly-D-Phe-Lys-His-D-Arg-Tyr-NH<sub>2</sub>D-Arg-Dmt-Lys-Phe-Met-NH<sub>2</sub>D-Arg-Dmt-Lys-Phe-Lys-Trp-NH<sub>2</sub>

55

D-Arg-Dmt-Lys-Dmt-Lys-Trp-NH<sub>2</sub>D-Arg-Dmt-Lys-Phe-Lys-Met-NH<sub>2</sub>D-Arg-Dmt-Lys-Dmt-Lys-Met-NH<sub>2</sub>

(continued)

TABLE A

H-D-Arg-Dmt-Lys-OH

H-D-Arg-Dmt-OH

H-D-Arg-Dmt-Lys-Phe-OH

TABLE B

Amino Acid Position 1	Amino Acid Position 2	Amino Acid Position 3	Amino Acid Position 4	C-Terminal Modification
Tyr	D-Arg	Phe	Orn	NH <sub>2</sub>
Tyr	D-Arg	Phe	Dab	NH <sub>2</sub>
Tyr	D-Arg	Phe	Dap	NH <sub>2</sub>
2'6'Dmt	D-Arg	Phe	Lys-NH(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> -NH-dns	NH <sub>2</sub>
2'6'Dmt	D-Arg	Phe	Lys-NH(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> -NH-atn	NH <sub>2</sub>
2'6'Dmt	D-Arg	Phe	dnsLys	NH <sub>2</sub>
2'6'Dmt	D-Cit	Phe	Ahp	NH <sub>2</sub>
2'6'Dmt	D-Arg	Phe	Dab	NH <sub>2</sub>
2'6'Dmt	D-Arg	Phe	Dap	NH <sub>2</sub>
3'5'Dmt	D-Arg	Phe	Lys	NH <sub>2</sub>
3'5'Dmt	D-Arg	Phe	Orn	NH <sub>2</sub>
3'5'Dmt	D-Arg	Phe	Dab	NH <sub>2</sub>
3'5'Dmt	D-Arg	Phe	Dap	NH <sub>2</sub>
Tyr	D-Arg	Tyr	Lys	NH <sub>2</sub>
Tyr	D-Arg	Tyr	Orn	NH <sub>2</sub>
Tyr	D-Arg	Tyr	Dab	NH <sub>2</sub>
Tyr	D-Arg	Tyr	Dap	NH <sub>2</sub>
2'6'Dmt	D-Arg	Tyr	Lys	NH <sub>2</sub>
2'6'Dmt	D-Arg	Tyr	Orn	NH <sub>2</sub>
2'6'Dmt	D-Arg	Tyr	Dab	NH <sub>2</sub>
2'6'Dmt	D-Arg	Tyr	Dap	NH <sub>2</sub>
2'6'Dmt	D-Arg	2'6'Dmt	Lys	NH <sub>2</sub>
2'6'Dmt	D-Arg	2'6'Dmt	Orn	NH <sub>2</sub>
2'6'Dmt	D-Arg	2'6'Dmt	Dab	NH <sub>2</sub>
2'6'Dmt	D-Arg	2'6'Dmt	Dap	NH <sub>2</sub>
3'5'Dmt	D-Arg	3'5'Dmt	Arg	NH <sub>2</sub>
3'5'Dmt	D-Arg	3'5'Dmt	Lys	NH <sub>2</sub>
3'5'Dmt	D-Arg	3'5'Dmt	Orn	NH <sub>2</sub>
3'5'Dmt	D-Arg	3'5'Dmt	Dab	NH <sub>2</sub>

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(continued)

TABLE B				
	Amino Acid Position 1	Amino Acid Position 2	Amino Acid Position 3	C-Terminal Modification
5	Tyr	D-Lys	Phe	NH <sub>2</sub>
	Tyr	D-Lys	Phe	NH <sub>2</sub>
10	Tyr	D-Lys	Phe	NH <sub>2</sub>
	Tyr	D-Lys	Phe	NH <sub>2</sub>
	2'6'Dmt	D-Lys	Phe	NH <sub>2</sub>
15	2'6'Dmt	D-Lys	Phe	NH <sub>2</sub>
	2'6'Dmt	D-Lys	Phe	NH <sub>2</sub>
	2'6'Dmt	D-Lys	Phe	NH <sub>2</sub>
	3'5'Dmt	D-Lys	Phe	NH <sub>2</sub>
20	3'5'Dmt	D-Lys	Phe	NH <sub>2</sub>
	3'5'Dmt	D-Lys	Phe	NH <sub>2</sub>
	3'5'Dmt	D-Lys	Phe	NH <sub>2</sub>
25	Tyr	D-Lys	Tyr	NH <sub>2</sub>
	Tyr	D-Lys	Tyr	NH <sub>2</sub>
	Tyr	D-Lys	Tyr	NH <sub>2</sub>
	Tyr	D-Lys	Tyr	NH <sub>2</sub>
30	2'6'Dmt	D-Lys	Tyr	NH <sub>2</sub>
	2'6'Dmt	D-Lys	Tyr	NH <sub>2</sub>
	2'6'Dmt	D-Lys	Tyr	NH <sub>2</sub>
	2'6'Dmt	D-Lys	Tyr	NH <sub>2</sub>
35	2'6'Dmt	D-Lys	2'6'Dmt	NH <sub>2</sub>
	2'6'Dmt	D-Lys	2'6'Dmt	NH <sub>2</sub>
	2'6'Dmt	D-Lys	2'6'Dmt	NH <sub>2</sub>
40	2'6'Dmt	D-Lys	2'6'Dmt	NH <sub>2</sub>
	3'5'Dmt	D-Lys	3'5'Dmt	NH <sub>2</sub>
	3'5'Dmt	D-Lys	3'5'Dmt	NH <sub>2</sub>
45	3'5'Dmt	D-Lys	3'5'Dmt	NH <sub>2</sub>
	3'5'Dmt	D-Lys	3'5'Dmt	NH <sub>2</sub>
	Tyr	D-Lys	Phe	NH <sub>2</sub>
	Tyr	D-Orn	Phe	NH <sub>2</sub>
50	Tyr	D-Dab	Phe	NH <sub>2</sub>
	Tyr	D-Dap	Phe	NH <sub>2</sub>
	2'6'Dmt	D-Arg	Phe	NH <sub>2</sub>
55	2'6'Dmt	D-Lys	Phe	NH <sub>2</sub>
	2'6'Dmt	D-Orn	Phe	NH <sub>2</sub>
	2'6'Dmt	D-Dab	Phe	NH <sub>2</sub>

(continued)

5	TABLE B				
	Amino Acid Position 1	Amino Acid Position 2	Amino Acid Position 3	Amino Acid Position 4	C-Terminal Modification
10	3'5'Dmt	D-Dap	Phe	Arg	NH <sub>2</sub>
	3'5'Dmt	D-Arg	Phe	Arg	NH <sub>2</sub>
	3'5'Dmt	D-Lys	Phe	Arg	NH <sub>2</sub>
	3'5'Dmt	D-Orn	Phe	Arg	NH <sub>2</sub>
	Tyr	D-Lys	Tyr	Arg	NH <sub>2</sub>
	Tyr	D-Orn	Tyr	Arg	NH <sub>2</sub>
15	Tyr	D-Dab	Tyr	Arg	NH <sub>2</sub>
	Tyr	D-Dap	Tyr	Arg	NH <sub>2</sub>
	2'6'Dmt	D-Arg	2'6'Dmt	Arg	NH <sub>2</sub>
	2'6'Dmt	D-Lys	2'6'Dmt	Arg	NH <sub>2</sub>
20	2'6'Dmt	D-Orn	2'6'Dmt	Arg	NH <sub>2</sub>
	2'6'Dmt	D-Dab	2'6'Dmt	Arg	NH <sub>2</sub>
	3'5'Dmt	D-Dap	3'5'Dmt	Arg	NH <sub>2</sub>
	3'5'Dmt	D-Arg	3'5'Dmt	Arg	NH <sub>2</sub>
25	3'5'Dmt	D-Lys	3'5'Dmt	Arg	NH <sub>2</sub>
	3'5'Dmt	D-Orn	3'5'Dmt	Arg	NH <sub>2</sub>
	Mmt	D-Arg	Phe	Lys	NH <sub>2</sub>
	Mmt	D-Arg	Phe	Orn	NH <sub>2</sub>
30	Mmt	D-Arg	Phe	Dab	NH <sub>2</sub>
	Mmt	D-Arg	Phe	Dap	NH <sub>2</sub>
	Tmt	D-Arg	Phe	Lys	NH <sub>2</sub>
	Tmt	D-Arg	Phe	Orn	NH <sub>2</sub>
35	Tmt	D-Arg	Phe	Dab	NH <sub>2</sub>
	Tmt	D-Arg	Phe	Dap	NH <sub>2</sub>
	Hmt	D-Arg	Phe	Lys	NH <sub>2</sub>
	Hmt	D-Arg	Phe	Orn	NH <sub>2</sub>
40	Hmt	D-Arg	Phe	Dab	NH <sub>2</sub>
	Hmt	D-Arg	Phe	Dap	NH <sub>2</sub>
	Hmt	D-Arg	Phe	Lys	NH <sub>2</sub>
	Hmt	D-Arg	Phe	Orn	NH <sub>2</sub>
45	Mmt	D-Lys	Phe	Lys	NH <sub>2</sub>
	Mmt	D-Lys	Phe	Orn	NH <sub>2</sub>
	Mmt	D-Lys	Phe	Dab	NH <sub>2</sub>
	Mmt	D-Lys	Phe	Dap	NH <sub>2</sub>
50	Mmt	D-Lys	Phe	Arg	NH <sub>2</sub>
	Tmt	D-Lys	Phe	Lys	NH <sub>2</sub>
	Tmt	D-Lys	Phe	Orn	NH <sub>2</sub>
	Tmt	D-Lys	Phe	Dab	NH <sub>2</sub>



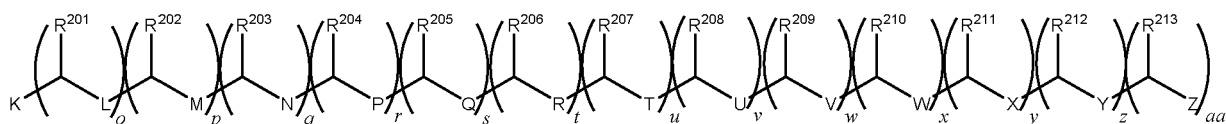
(continued)

TABLE B

Amino Acid Position 1	Amino Acid Position 2	Amino Acid Position 3	Amino Acid Position 4	C-Terminal Modification
Tmt	D-Lys	Phe	Dap	NH <sub>2</sub>
Tmt	D-Lys	Phe	Arg	NH <sub>2</sub>
Hmt	D-Lys	Phe	Lys	NH <sub>2</sub>
Hmt	D-Lys	Phe	Orn	NH <sub>2</sub>
Hmt	D-Lys	Phe	Dab	NH <sub>2</sub>
Hmt	D-Lys	Phe	Dap	NH <sub>2</sub>
Hmt	D-Lys	Phe	Arg	NH <sub>2</sub>
Mmt	D-Lys	Phe	Arg	NH <sub>2</sub>
Mmt	D-Orn	Phe	Arg	NH <sub>2</sub>
Mmt	D-Dab	Phe	Arg	NH <sub>2</sub>
Mmt	D-Dap	Phe	Arg	NH <sub>2</sub>
Mmt	D-Arg	Phe	Arg	NH <sub>2</sub>
Tmt	D-Lys	Phe	Arg	NH <sub>2</sub>
Tmt	D-Orn	Phe	Arg	NH <sub>2</sub>
Tmt	D-Dab	Phe	Arg	NH <sub>2</sub>
Tmt	D-Dap	Phe	Arg	NH <sub>2</sub>
Tmt	D-Arg	Phe	Arg	NH <sub>2</sub>
Hmt	D-Lys	Phe	Arg	NH <sub>2</sub>
Hmt	D-Orn	Phe	Arg	NH <sub>2</sub>
Hmt	D-Dab	Phe	Arg	NH <sub>2</sub>
Hmt	D-Dap	Phe	Arg	NH <sub>2</sub>
Hmt	D-Arg	Phe	Arg	NH <sub>2</sub>
Trp	D-Arg	Phe	Lys	NH <sub>2</sub>

2'-methyltyrosine (Mmt); Dimethyltyrosine (Dmt); 2',6'-dimethyltyrosine (2'6'-Dmt); 3',5'-dimethyltyrosine (3'5'Dmt); N,2',6'-trimethyltyrosine (Tmt); 2'-hydroxy-6'-methyltyrosine (Hmt); 2'-methylphenylalanine (Mmp); dimethylphenylalanine (Dmp); 2',6'-dimethylphenylalanine (2',6'-Dmp); N,2',6'-trimethylphenylalanine (Tmp); 2'-hydroxy-6'-methylphenylalanine (Hmp); cyclohexylalanine (Cha); diaminobutyric (Dab); diaminopropionic acid (Dap);  $\beta$ -dansyl-L- $\alpha,\beta$ -diaminopropionic acid (dnsDap);  $\beta$ -anthraniloyl-L- $\alpha,\beta$ -diaminopropionic acid (atnDap); biotin (bio); norleucine (Nle); 2-aminohepantoic acid (Ahp);  $\beta$ -(6'-dimethylamino-2'-naphthoyl)alanine (Ald); Sarcosine (Sar)

**[0052]** The peptide may be defined by Formula II:

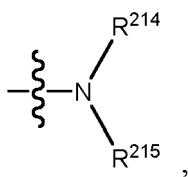


Formula II

wherein:

one of K and Z is

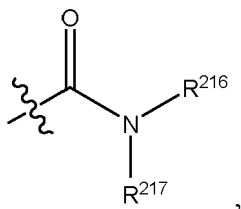
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10

and the other of K and Z is

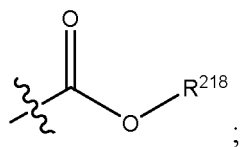
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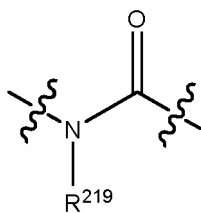
or

25



L, M, N, P, Q, R, T, U, V, W, X, and Y are each

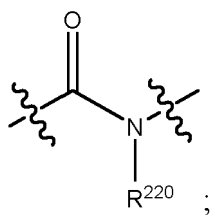
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35

or L, M, N, P, Q, R, T, U, V, W, X, and Y are each

40



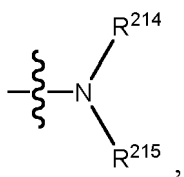
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with the proviso that when

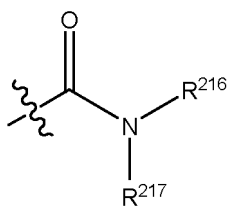
aa is 0 and Z is not a terminal group, the terminal group is one of L, M, N, P, Q, R, T, U, V, W, X, or Y, such that one of K and the terminal group is

50

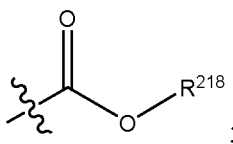
55



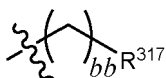
and the other of K and the terminal group is selected from



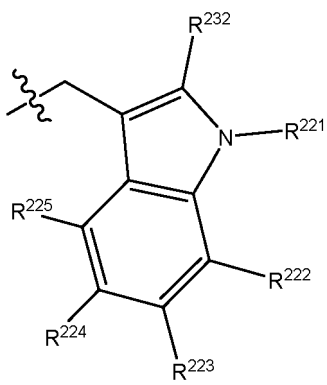
or



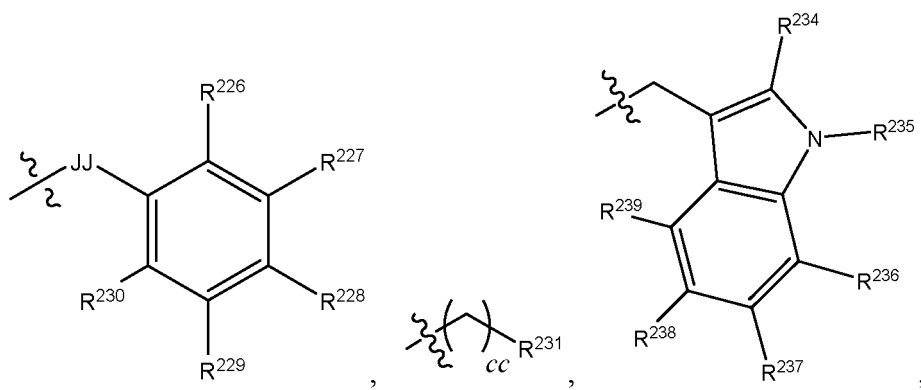
R<sup>201</sup> is



or

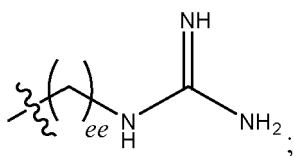


R<sup>202</sup> is



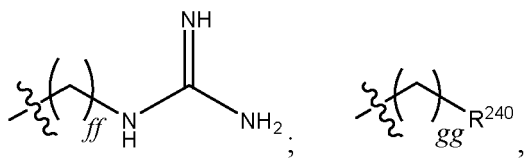
or

5



R<sup>203</sup> is

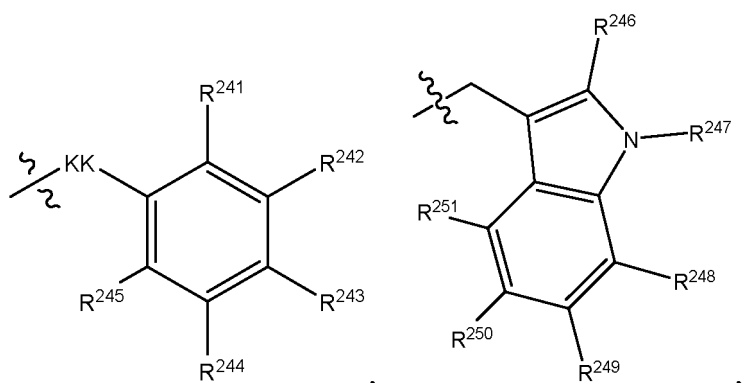
10



15

or hydrogen;  
R<sup>204</sup> is

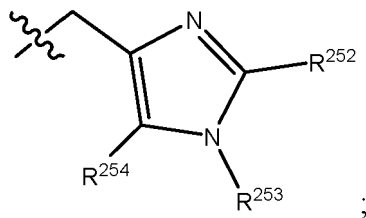
20



30

or

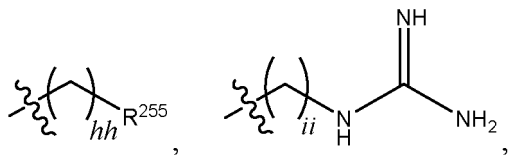
35



40

R<sup>205</sup> is

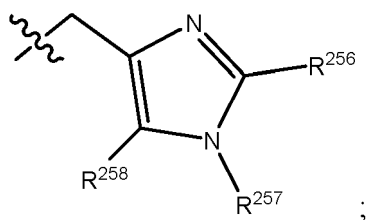
45



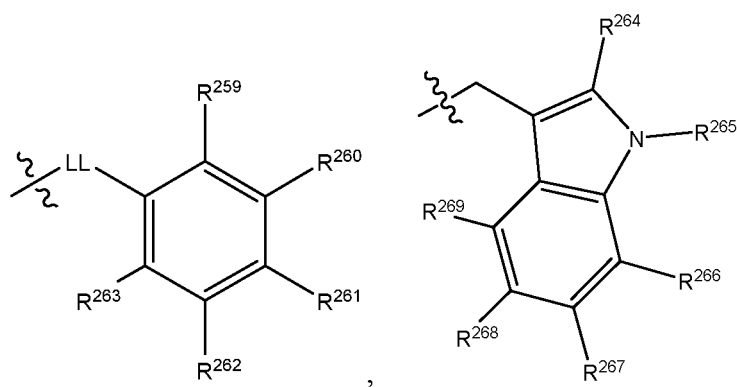
50

or

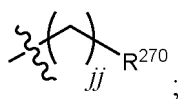
55



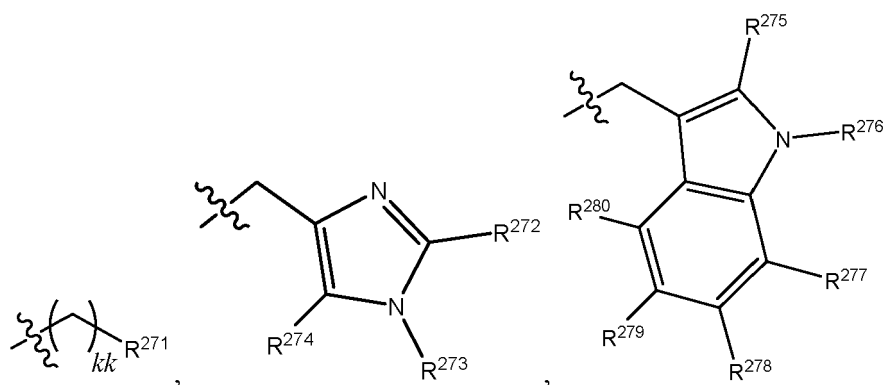
R<sup>206</sup> is



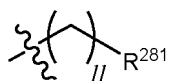
or



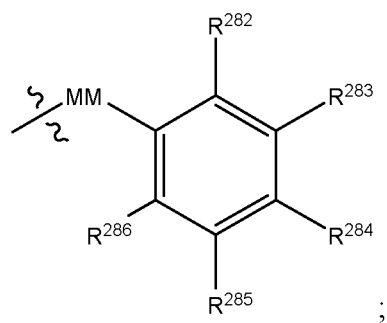
R<sup>207</sup> is



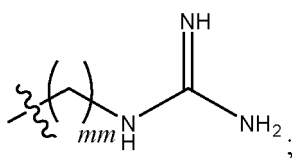
or hydrogen;  
R<sup>208</sup> is



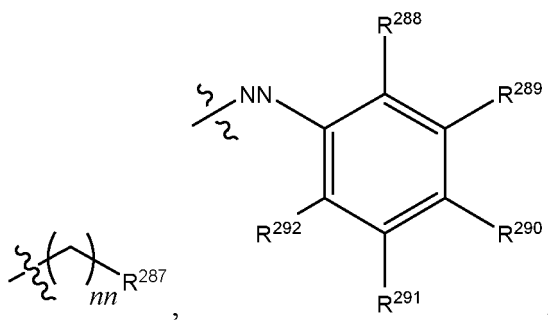
or



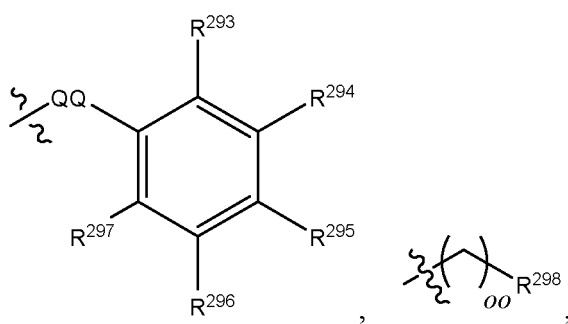
$R^{209}$  is



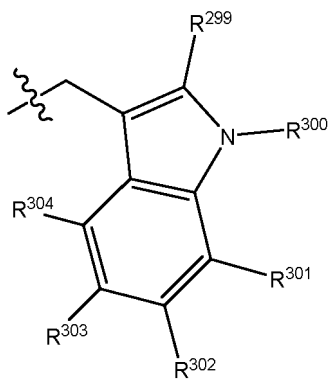
$R^{210}$  is



or hydrogen;  
 $R^{211}$  is

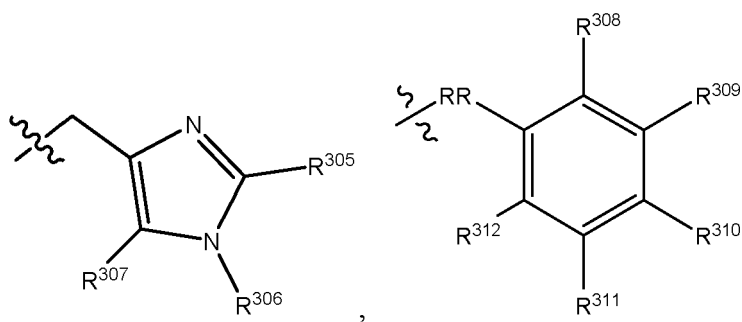


or

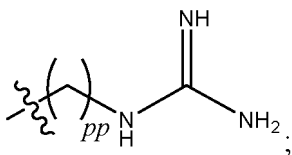


;

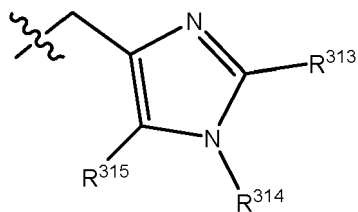
R<sup>212</sup> is



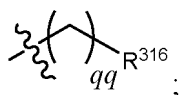
or



R<sup>213</sup> is



or



wherein

R<sup>214</sup>, R<sup>215</sup>, R<sup>216</sup>, R<sup>217</sup>, and R<sup>218</sup> are each independently a hydrogen or substituted or unsubstituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkynyl, saturated or unsaturated cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, 5- or 6- membered

saturated or unsaturated heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, or amino protecting group; or R<sup>214</sup> and R<sup>215</sup> together form a 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8 membered substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclyl ring;

R<sup>219</sup> and R<sup>220</sup> are, at each occurrence, independently a hydrogen or substituted or unsubstituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl group;

R<sup>222</sup>, R<sup>223</sup>, R<sup>224</sup>, R<sup>225</sup>, R<sup>226</sup>, R<sup>227</sup>, R<sup>228</sup>, R<sup>229</sup>, R<sup>230</sup>, R<sup>232</sup>, R<sup>234</sup>, R<sup>236</sup>, R<sup>237</sup>, R<sup>238</sup>, R<sup>239</sup>, R<sup>241</sup>, R<sup>242</sup>, R<sup>243</sup>, R<sup>244</sup>, R<sup>245</sup>, R<sup>246</sup>, R<sup>248</sup>, R<sup>249</sup>, R<sup>250</sup>, R<sup>251</sup>, R<sup>252</sup>, R<sup>254</sup>, R<sup>256</sup>, R<sup>258</sup>, R<sup>259</sup>, R<sup>260</sup>, R<sup>261</sup>, R<sup>262</sup>, R<sup>263</sup>, R<sup>264</sup>, R<sup>266</sup>, R<sup>267</sup>, R<sup>268</sup>, R<sup>269</sup>, R<sup>272</sup>, R<sup>274</sup>, R<sup>275</sup>, R<sup>277</sup>, R<sup>278</sup>, R<sup>279</sup>, R<sup>280</sup>, R<sup>282</sup>, R<sup>283</sup>, R<sup>284</sup>, R<sup>285</sup>, R<sup>286</sup>, R<sup>288</sup>, R<sup>289</sup>, R<sup>290</sup>, R<sup>291</sup>, R<sup>292</sup>, R<sup>293</sup>, R<sup>294</sup>, R<sup>295</sup>, R<sup>296</sup>, R<sup>297</sup>, R<sup>299</sup>, R<sup>301</sup>, R<sup>302</sup>, R<sup>303</sup>, R<sup>304</sup>, R<sup>305</sup>, R<sup>307</sup>, R<sup>308</sup>, R<sup>309</sup>, R<sup>310</sup>, R<sup>311</sup>, R<sup>312</sup>, R<sup>313</sup>, and R<sup>315</sup>

are each independently a hydrogen, amino, amido, -NO<sub>2</sub>, -CN, -OR<sup>c</sup>, -SR<sup>c</sup>, -NR<sup>c</sup>R<sup>c</sup>, -F, -Cl, -Br, -I, or a substituted or unsubstituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy, -C(O)-alkyl, -C(O)-aryl, -C(O)-aralkyl, -C(O)<sub>2</sub>R<sup>c</sup>, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylamino, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> dialkylamino, or perhaloalkyl group;

R<sup>221</sup>, R<sup>235</sup>, R<sup>247</sup>, R<sup>253</sup>, R<sup>257</sup>, R<sup>265</sup>, R<sup>273</sup>, R<sup>276</sup>, R<sup>300</sup>, R<sup>306</sup>, and R<sup>314</sup> are each independently a hydrogen or substituted or unsubstituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl group;

R<sup>231</sup>, R<sup>240</sup>, R<sup>255</sup>, R<sup>270</sup>, R<sup>271</sup>, R<sup>281</sup>, R<sup>287</sup>, R<sup>298</sup>, R<sup>316</sup>, and R<sup>317</sup> are each independently a hydrogen, -OR<sup>c</sup>, -SR<sup>c</sup>, -NR<sup>c</sup>R<sup>c</sup>, -NR<sup>c</sup>R<sup>d</sup>, -CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>c</sup>, -(CO)NR<sup>c</sup>R<sup>c</sup>, -NR<sup>c</sup>(CO)R<sup>c</sup>, -NR<sup>c</sup>(NH)NH<sub>2</sub>, -NR<sup>c</sup>-dansyl, or a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, aryl, or aralkyl group;

JJ, KK, LL, MM, NN, QQ, and RR are each independently absent, -NH(CO)-, or -CH<sub>2</sub>-;

R<sup>c</sup> at each occurrence is independently a hydrogen or a substituted or unsubstituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl group;

R<sup>d</sup> at each occurrence is independently a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylene-NR<sup>c</sup>-dansyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylene-NR<sup>c</sup>-anthraniloyl group;

*o*, *p*, *q*, *r*, *s*, *t*, *u*, *v*, *w*, *x*, *y*, *z*, and *aa* are each independently 0 or 1, with the proviso that *o* + *p* + *q* + *r* + *s* + *t* + *u* + *v* + *w* + *x* + *y* + *z* + *aa* equals 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, or 11;

*cc* is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5; and

*bb*, *cc*, *ee*, *ff*, *gg*, *hh*, *ii*, *jj*, *kk*, *ll*, *mm*, *nn*, *oo*, *pp*, and *qq* are each independently 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5.

**[0053]** Alternatively, in peptides of Formula II,

R<sup>214</sup>, R<sup>215</sup>, R<sup>216</sup>, R<sup>217</sup>, and R<sup>218</sup> are each independently a hydrogen or substituted or unsubstituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl group; R<sup>219</sup> and R<sup>220</sup> are, at each occurrence, independently a hydrogen or methyl group;

R<sup>222</sup>, R<sup>223</sup>, R<sup>224</sup>, R<sup>225</sup>, R<sup>226</sup>, R<sup>227</sup>, R<sup>228</sup>, R<sup>229</sup>, R<sup>230</sup>, R<sup>232</sup>, R<sup>234</sup>, R<sup>236</sup>, R<sup>237</sup>, R<sup>238</sup>, R<sup>239</sup>, R<sup>241</sup>, R<sup>242</sup>, R<sup>243</sup>, R<sup>244</sup>, R<sup>245</sup>, R<sup>246</sup>, R<sup>248</sup>, R<sup>249</sup>, R<sup>250</sup>, R<sup>251</sup>, R<sup>252</sup>, R<sup>254</sup>, R<sup>256</sup>, R<sup>258</sup>, R<sup>259</sup>, R<sup>260</sup>, R<sup>261</sup>, R<sup>262</sup>, R<sup>263</sup>, R<sup>264</sup>, R<sup>266</sup>, R<sup>267</sup>, R<sup>268</sup>, R<sup>269</sup>, R<sup>272</sup>, R<sup>274</sup>, R<sup>275</sup>, R<sup>277</sup>, R<sup>278</sup>, R<sup>279</sup>, R<sup>280</sup>, R<sup>282</sup>, R<sup>283</sup>, R<sup>284</sup>, R<sup>285</sup>, R<sup>286</sup>, R<sup>288</sup>, R<sup>289</sup>, R<sup>290</sup>, R<sup>291</sup>, R<sup>292</sup>, R<sup>293</sup>, R<sup>294</sup>, R<sup>295</sup>, R<sup>296</sup>, R<sup>297</sup>, R<sup>299</sup>, R<sup>301</sup>, R<sup>302</sup>, R<sup>303</sup>, R<sup>304</sup>, R<sup>305</sup>, R<sup>307</sup>, R<sup>308</sup>, R<sup>309</sup>, R<sup>310</sup>, R<sup>311</sup>, R<sup>312</sup>, R<sup>313</sup>, and R<sup>315</sup> are each independently a hydrogen, methyl, or -OR<sup>c</sup> group;

R<sup>221</sup>, R<sup>235</sup>, R<sup>247</sup>, R<sup>253</sup>, R<sup>257</sup>, R<sup>265</sup>, R<sup>273</sup>, R<sup>276</sup>, R<sup>300</sup>, R<sup>306</sup>, and R<sup>314</sup> are each independently a hydrogen or substituted or unsubstituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl group;

R<sup>231</sup> is -(CO)NR<sup>c</sup>R<sup>c</sup>, -OR<sup>c</sup>, or a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl group, optionally substituted with a hydroxyl or methyl group;

R<sup>240</sup> and R<sup>255</sup> are each independently -CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>c</sup> or -NR<sup>c</sup>R<sup>c</sup>;

R<sup>270</sup> and R<sup>271</sup> are each independently -CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>c</sup>;

R<sup>281</sup> is -SR<sup>c</sup> or -NR<sup>c</sup>R<sup>c</sup>;

R<sup>287</sup> is -(CO)NR<sup>c</sup>R<sup>c</sup> or -OR<sup>c</sup>;

R<sup>298</sup> is -NR<sup>c</sup>R<sup>c</sup>, -COR<sup>c</sup>, or -SR<sup>c</sup>;

R<sup>316</sup> is -NR<sup>c</sup>R<sup>c</sup>;

R<sup>317</sup> is hydrogen or -NR<sup>c</sup>R<sup>c</sup>;

JJ, KK, LL, MM, NN, QQ, and RR are each independently absent or -CH<sub>2</sub>-;

R<sup>c</sup> at each occurrence is independently a hydrogen or a substituted or unsubstituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl group;

R<sup>d</sup> at each occurrence is independently a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylene-NR<sup>c</sup>-dansyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylene-NR<sup>c</sup>-anthraniloyl group;

*o*, *p*, *q*, *r*, *s*, *t*, *u*, *v*, *w*, *x*, *y*, *z*, and *aa* are each independently 0 or 1,

with the proviso that *o* + *p* + *q* + *r* + *s* + *t* + *u* + *v* + *w* + *x* + *y* + *z* + *aa* equals 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, or 11;

*cc* is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5; and

*bb*, *cc*, *dd*, *ee*, *ff*, *gg*, *hh*, *ii*, *jj*, *kk*, *ll*, *mm*, *nn*, *oo*, *pp*, and *qq* are each independently 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5.

**[0054]** Alternatively, in peptides of Formula II,

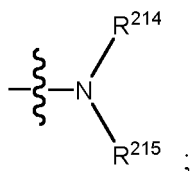
R<sup>221</sup>, R<sup>222</sup>, R<sup>223</sup>, R<sup>224</sup>, R<sup>225</sup>, R<sup>226</sup>, R<sup>227</sup>, R<sup>228</sup>, R<sup>229</sup>, R<sup>230</sup>, R<sup>232</sup>, R<sup>234</sup>, R<sup>235</sup>, R<sup>236</sup>, R<sup>237</sup>, R<sup>238</sup>, R<sup>239</sup>, R<sup>242</sup>, R<sup>244</sup>, R<sup>246</sup>, R<sup>247</sup>, R<sup>248</sup>, R<sup>249</sup>, R<sup>250</sup>, R<sup>251</sup>, R<sup>252</sup>, R<sup>253</sup>, R<sup>254</sup>, R<sup>256</sup>, R<sup>257</sup>, R<sup>258</sup>, R<sup>259</sup>, R<sup>260</sup>, R<sup>262</sup>, R<sup>263</sup>, R<sup>264</sup>, R<sup>265</sup>, R<sup>266</sup>, R<sup>267</sup>, R<sup>268</sup>, R<sup>269</sup>, R<sup>272</sup>, R<sup>273</sup>, R<sup>274</sup>, R<sup>275</sup>, R<sup>276</sup>, R<sup>277</sup>, R<sup>278</sup>, R<sup>279</sup>, R<sup>280</sup>, R<sup>282</sup>, R<sup>283</sup>, R<sup>285</sup>, R<sup>286</sup>, R<sup>288</sup>, R<sup>289</sup>, R<sup>291</sup>, R<sup>292</sup>, R<sup>293</sup>, R<sup>294</sup>, R<sup>296</sup>, R<sup>297</sup>, R<sup>299</sup>, R<sup>300</sup>, R<sup>301</sup>, R<sup>302</sup>, R<sup>303</sup>, R<sup>304</sup>, R<sup>305</sup>, R<sup>306</sup>, R<sup>307</sup>, R<sup>308</sup>, R<sup>309</sup>, R<sup>311</sup>, R<sup>312</sup>, R<sup>313</sup>, R<sup>314</sup>, and R<sup>315</sup> are each hydrogen;



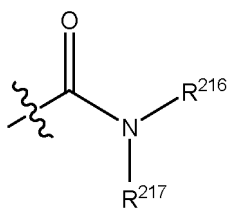
R<sup>241</sup> and R<sup>245</sup> are each independently a hydrogen or methyl group;  
R<sup>243</sup>, R<sup>261</sup>, R<sup>284</sup>, R<sup>290</sup>, R<sup>295</sup>, R<sup>310</sup> are each independently a hydrogen or OH;  
R<sup>231</sup> is -(CO)NH<sub>2</sub>, an ethyl group substituted with a hydroxyl group, or an isopropyl group;  
R<sup>240</sup> and R<sup>255</sup> are each independently -CO<sub>2</sub>H or -NH<sub>2</sub>;  
5 R<sup>270</sup> and R<sup>271</sup> are each independently -CO<sub>2</sub>H;  
R<sup>281</sup> is -SH or -NH<sub>2</sub>;  
R<sup>287</sup> is -(CO)NH<sub>2</sub> or -OH;  
R<sup>298</sup> is -NH<sub>2</sub>, -CO<sub>2</sub>H, or -SH;  
R<sup>316</sup> is -NH<sub>2</sub>;  
10 R<sup>317</sup> is hydrogen or -NH<sub>2</sub>;  
JJ, KK, LL, MM, NN, QQ, and RR are each independently -CH<sub>2</sub>-;  
*o*, *p*, *q*, *r*, *s*, *t*, *u*, *v*, *w*, *x*, *y*, *z*, and *aa* are each independently 0 or 1,  
with the proviso that *o* + *p* + *q* + *r* + *s* + *t* + *u* + *v* + *w* + *x* + *y* + *z* + *aa* equals 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, or 11;  
*cc* is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5; and  
15 *bb*, *cc*, *dd*, *ee*, *ff*, *gg*, *hh*, *ii*, *jj*, *kk*, *ll*, *mm*, *nn*, *oo*, *pp*, and *qq* are each independently 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5.

[0055] Alternatively, in Formula II,

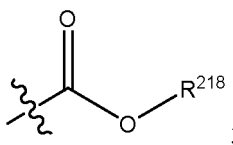
K is



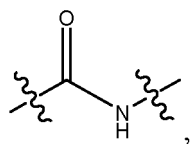
Z is



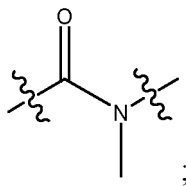
or



L, M, N, P, Q, R, T, U, V, W, X, and Y are each independently

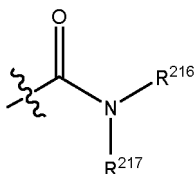


or

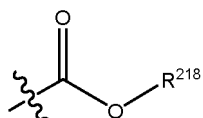


with the proviso that when

*aa* is 0 and *Z* is not a terminal group, the terminal group is one of L, M, N, P, Q, R, T, U, V, W, X, or Y, such that one of L, M, N, P, Q, R, T, U, V, W, X, or Y, is

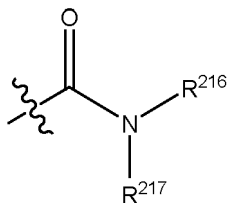


or

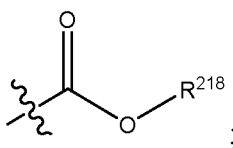


**[0056]** Alternatively, in Formula II,

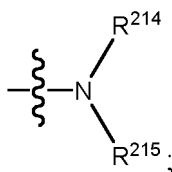
*K* is



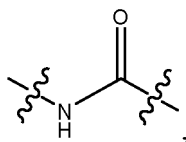
or



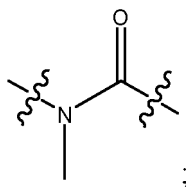
*Z* is



L, M, N, P, Q, R, T, U, V, W, X, and Y are each independently

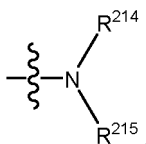


or



with the proviso that when

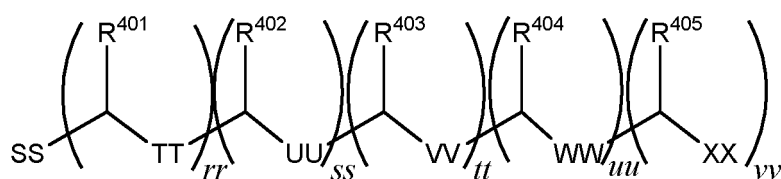
*aa* is 0 and Z is not a terminal group, the terminal group is one of L, M, N, P, Q, R, T, U, V, W, X, or Y, such that one of L, M, N, P, Q, R, T, U, V, W, X, or Y, is



**[0057]** The peptide of Formula II may be selected from the peptides shown in Table C.

TABLE C	
D-Arg-Dmt-Lys-Phe-Glu-Cys-Gly-NH <sub>2</sub>	
Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-Glu-Cys-Gly-NH <sub>2</sub>	
Phe-D-Arg-Dmt-Lys-Glu-Cys-Gly-NH <sub>2</sub>	
Ala-D-Phe-D-Arg-Tyr-Lys-D-Trp-His-D-Tyr-Gly-Phe	
Asp-D-Trp-Lys-Tyr-D-His-Phe-Arg-D-Gly-Lys-NH <sub>2</sub>	
D-His-Glu-Lys-Tyr-D-Phe-Arg	
D-His-Lys-Tyr-D-Phe-Glu-D-Asp-D-Asp-D-His-D-Lys-Arg-Trp-NH <sub>2</sub>	
Lys-D-Gln-Tyr-Arg-D-Phe-Trp-NH <sub>2</sub>	
Lys-Trp-D-Tyr-Arg-Asn-Phe-Tyr-D-His-NH <sub>2</sub>	
Phe-D-Arg-Lys-Trp-Tyr-D-Arg-His	
Thr-Gly-Tyr-Arg-D-His-Phe-Trp-D-His-Lys	
Trp-Lys-Phe-D-Asp-Arg-Tyr-D-His-Lys	
Val-D-Lys-His-Tyr-D-Phe-Ser-Tyr-Arg-NH <sub>2</sub>	
Gly-D-Phe-Lys-Tyr-His-D-Arg-Tyr-NH <sub>2</sub>	
Asp-D-Trp-Lys-Tyr-D-His-Phe-Arg-D-Gly-Lys-NH <sub>2</sub>	
D-His-Lys-Tyr-D-Phe-Glu-D-Asp-D-His-D-Lys-Arg-Trp-NH <sub>2</sub>	
H-Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-Glu-Cys-Gly-NH <sub>2</sub>	
Phe-Arg-Phe-Lys-Glu-Cys-Gly	
H-D-Arg-Dmt-Lys-Phe-Sar-Gly-Cys-NH <sub>2</sub>	

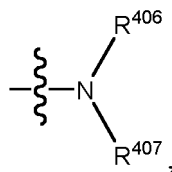
[0058] The peptide may be defined by Formula III:



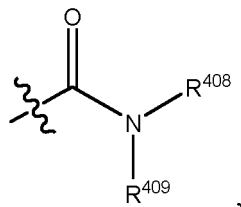
Formula III

wherein:

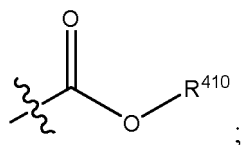
one of SS and XX is



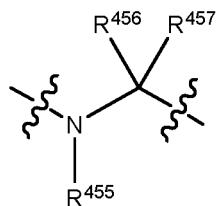
and the other is



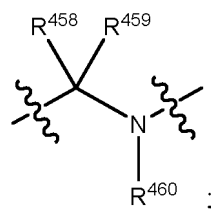
or



TT, UU, VV, and WW are each

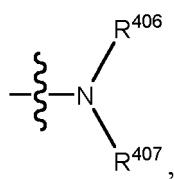


or TT, UU, VV, and WW are each



with the proviso when  $vv$  is 0 and  $uu$  is 1, one of SS and WW is

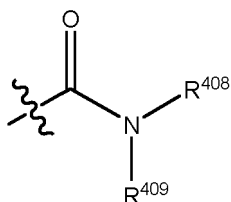
5



10

and the other of SS and WW is

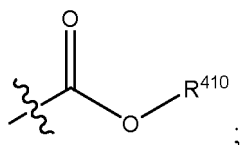
15



20

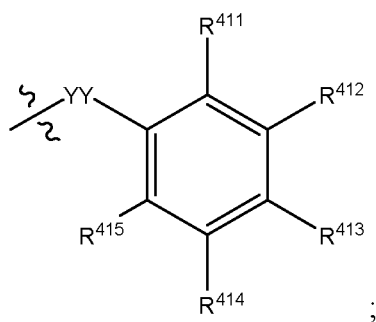
or

25



$R^{401}$  is

30

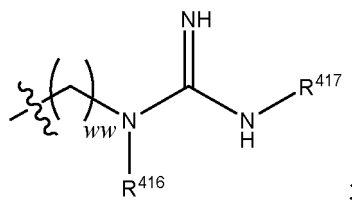


35

40

$R^{402}$  is

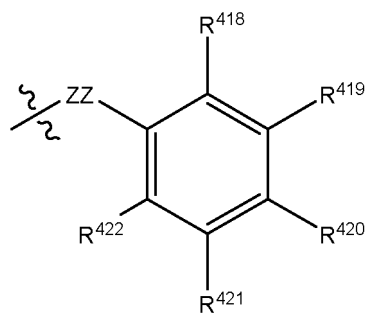
45



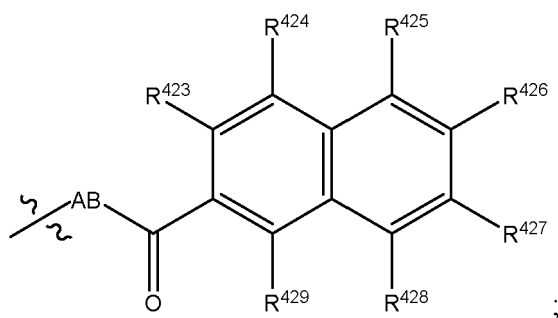
50

$R^{403}$  is

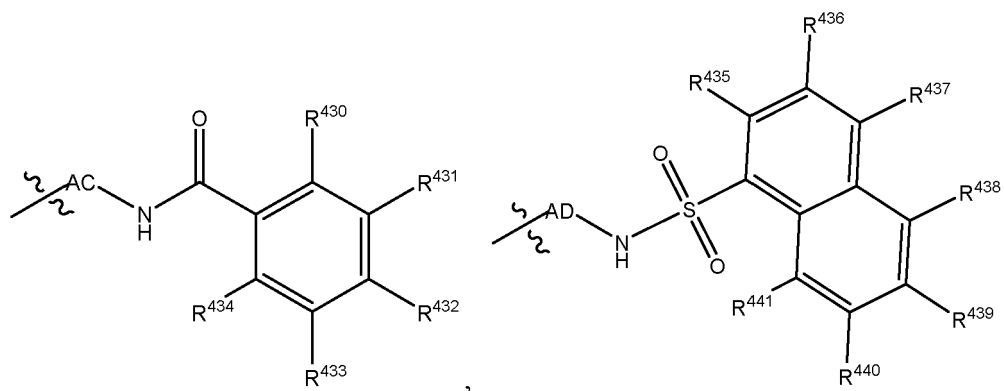
55



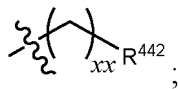
or



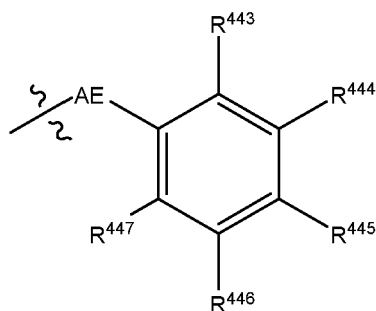
$R^{404}$  is



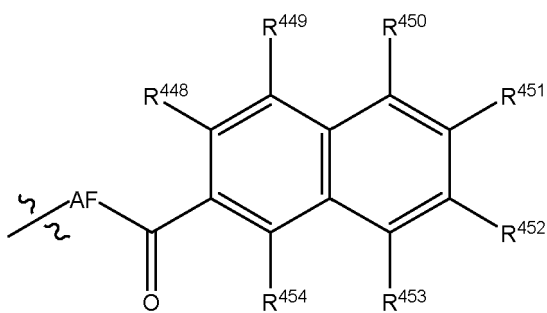
or,



$R^{405}$  is



or



wherein

R<sup>406</sup>, R<sup>407</sup>, R<sup>408</sup>, R<sup>409</sup>, and R<sup>410</sup> are each independently a hydrogen or substituted or unsubstituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkynyl, saturated or unsaturated cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, 5- or 6- membered saturated or unsaturated heterocyclyl, heterobicycyl, heteroaryl, or amino protecting group; or R<sup>406</sup> and R<sup>407</sup> together form a 3-, 4-, 5-, 6-, 7-, or 8-member substituted or unsubstituted heterocycl ring;

R<sup>455</sup> and R<sup>460</sup> are at each occurrence independently a hydrogen, -C(O)R<sup>e</sup>, or an unsubstituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl group; R<sup>456</sup> and R<sup>457</sup> are each independently a hydrogen or substituted or unsubstituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl group; or together R<sup>456</sup> and R<sup>457</sup> are C=O;

R<sup>458</sup> and R<sup>459</sup> are each independently a hydrogen or substituted or unsubstituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl group; or together R<sup>458</sup> and R<sup>459</sup> are C=O;

R<sup>411</sup>, R<sup>412</sup>, R<sup>413</sup>, R<sup>414</sup>, R<sup>415</sup>, R<sup>418</sup>, R<sup>419</sup>, R<sup>420</sup>, R<sup>421</sup>, R<sup>422</sup>, R<sup>423</sup>, R<sup>424</sup>, R<sup>425</sup>, R<sup>426</sup>, R<sup>427</sup>, R<sup>428</sup>, R<sup>429</sup>, R<sup>430</sup>, R<sup>431</sup>, R<sup>432</sup>, R<sup>433</sup>, R<sup>434</sup>, R<sup>435</sup>, R<sup>436</sup>, R<sup>437</sup>, R<sup>438</sup>, R<sup>439</sup>, R<sup>440</sup>, R<sup>441</sup>, R<sup>443</sup>, R<sup>444</sup>, R<sup>445</sup>, R<sup>446</sup>, R<sup>447</sup>, R<sup>448</sup>, R<sup>449</sup>, R<sup>450</sup>, R<sup>451</sup>, R<sup>452</sup>, R<sup>453</sup>, and R<sup>454</sup> are each independently a hydrogen, deuterium, amino, amido, -NO<sub>2</sub>, -CN, -OR<sup>e</sup>, -SR<sup>e</sup>, -NR<sup>e</sup>R<sup>e</sup>, -F, -Cl, -Br, -I, or a substituted or unsubstituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy, -C(O)-alkyl, -C(O)-aryl, -C(O)-aralkyl, -C(O)<sub>2</sub>R<sup>e</sup>, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylamino, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> dialkylamino, or perhaloalkyl group;

R<sup>416</sup> and R<sup>417</sup> are each independently a hydrogen, -C(O)R<sup>e</sup>, or a substituted or unsubstituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl;

R<sup>442</sup> is a hydrogen, -OR<sup>e</sup>, -SR<sup>e</sup>, -NR<sup>e</sup>R<sup>e</sup>, -NR<sup>e</sup>R<sup>f</sup>, -CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>e</sup>, -C(O)NR<sup>e</sup>R<sup>e</sup>, -NR<sup>e</sup>C(O)R<sup>e</sup>, -NR<sup>e</sup>C(NH)NH<sub>2</sub>, -NR<sup>e</sup>-dansyl, or a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, aryl, or aralkyl group;

YY, ZZ, and AE are each independently absent, -NH(CO)-, or -CH<sub>2</sub>-;

AB, AC, AD, and AF are each independently absent or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylene group;

R<sup>e</sup> at each occurrence is independently a hydrogen or a substituted or unsubstituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl group;

R<sup>f</sup> at each occurrence is independently a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylene-NR<sup>e</sup>-dansyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylene-NR<sup>e</sup>-anthraniloyl group;

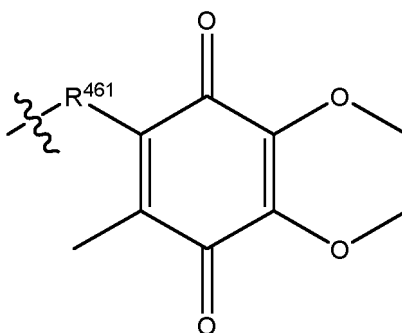
*rr*, *ss*, and *vv* are each independently 0 or 1; *tt* and *uu* are each 1

with the proviso that *rr* + *ss* + *tt* + *uu* + *vv* equals 4 or 5; and

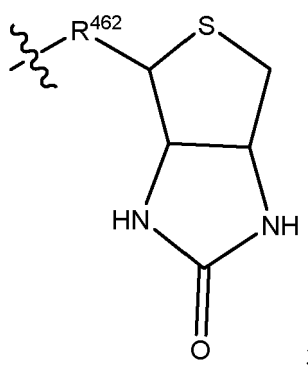
*ww* and *xx* are each independently 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5.

**[0059]** Alternatively, in peptides of Formula III,

R<sup>406</sup> is a hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl group,



or



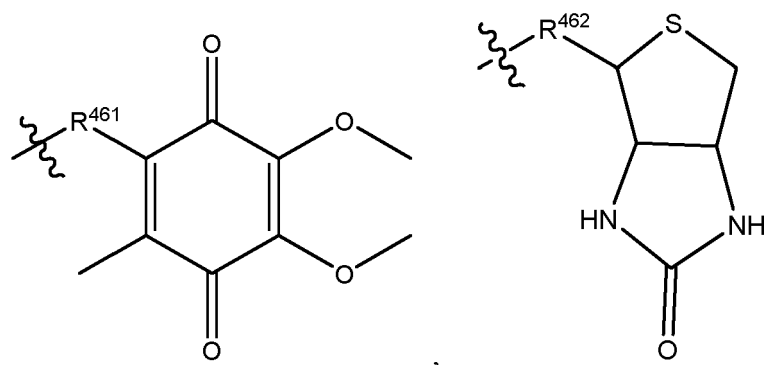
wherein  $R^{461}$  is a  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkylene- $CO_2$ - or  $-CO_2$ - $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkylene- $CO_2$ -; and  
 $R^{462}$  is  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkylene or  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkylene- $CO_2$ -;

$R^{407}$ ,  $R^{408}$ ,  $R^{409}$ , and  $R^{410}$  are each independently a hydrogen or substituted or unsubstituted  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl group;  
 $R^{455}$  and  $R^{460}$  are each independently a hydrogen,  $-C(O)-C_1-C_6$  alkyl, or methyl group;  
 $R^{456}$  and  $R^{457}$  are each a hydrogen or together  $R^{456}$  and  $R^{457}$  are  $C=O$ ;  
 $R^{458}$  and  $R^{459}$  are each a hydrogen or together  $R^{458}$  and  $R^{459}$  are  $C=O$ ;  
 $R^{416}$  and  $R^{417}$  are each independently a hydrogen or  $-C(O)R^e$ ;  
 $R^{411}$ ,  $R^{412}$ ,  $R^{413}$ ,  $R^{414}$ ,  $R^{415}$ ,  $R^{418}$ ,  $R^{419}$ ,  $R^{420}$ ,  $R^{421}$ ,  $R^{422}$ ,  $R^{443}$ ,  $R^{444}$ ,  $R^{445}$ ,  $R^{446}$ , and  $R^{447}$  are each independently a hydrogen, deuterium, methyl, or  $-OR^e$  group;  
 $R^{423}$ ,  $R^{424}$ ,  $R^{425}$ ,  $R^{426}$ ,  $R^{427}$ ,  $R^{428}$ ,  $R^{429}$ ,  $R^{430}$ ,  $R^{431}$ ,  $R^{432}$ ,  $R^{433}$ ,  $R^{434}$ ,  $R^{435}$ ,  $R^{436}$ ,  $R^{437}$ ,  $R^{438}$ ,  $R^{439}$ ,  $R^{440}$ ,  $R^{441}$ ,  $R^{448}$ ,  $R^{449}$ ,  $R^{450}$ ,  $R^{451}$ ,  $R^{452}$ ,  $R^{453}$ , and  $R^{454}$  are each independently a hydrogen,  $NR^eR^e$ , or substituted or unsubstituted  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl group;  
 $R^{442}$  is a  $-NR^eR^e$ ;  
 $YY$ ,  $ZZ$ , and  $AE$  are each independently absent or  $-CH_2-$ ;  
 $AB$ ,  $AC$ ,  $AD$ , and  $AF$  are each independently absent or  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkylene group;  
 $R^e$  at each occurrence is independently a hydrogen or a substituted or unsubstituted  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl group;  
 $rr$ ,  $ss$ , and  $vv$  are each independently 0 or 1;  $tt$  and  $uu$  are each 1  
with the proviso that  $rr + ss + tt + uu + vv$  equals 4 or 5; and  
 $ww$  and  $xx$  are each independently 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5.

**[0060]** Alternatively, in peptides of Formula III,

$R^{406}$  is





hydrogen, or methyl,

wherein  $R^{461}$  is a  $-(CH_2)_3-CO_2^-$ ,  $-(CH_2)_9-CO_2^-$ , or  $-CO_2-(CH_2)_2-CO_2^-$  and  $R^{462}$  is  $-(CH_2)_4-CO_2^-$ ;

$R^{407}$ ,  $R^{408}$ ,  $R^{409}$ , and  $R^{410}$  are each a hydrogen or methyl group;

$R^{455}$  and  $R^{460}$  are each independently a hydrogen,  $-C(O)CH_3$ , or methyl group;

$R^{456}$  and  $R^{417}$  are each a hydrogen or together  $R^{456}$  and  $R^{417}$  are  $C=O$ ;

$R^{458}$  and  $R^{459}$  are each a hydrogen or together  $R^{458}$  and  $R^{459}$  are  $C=O$ ;

$R^{416}$  and  $R^{417}$  are each independently a hydrogen or  $-C(O)CH_3$ ;

$R^{426}$ ,  $R^{438}$ , and  $R^{451}$  are each  $-N(CH_3)_2$ ;

$R^{434}$  and  $R^{442}$  are each  $-NH_2$ ;

$R^{423}$ ,  $R^{424}$ ,  $R^{425}$ ,  $R^{427}$ ,  $R^{428}$ ,  $R^{429}$ ,  $R^{430}$ ,  $R^{431}$ ,  $R^{432}$ ,  $R^{433}$ ,  $R^{435}$ ,  $R^{436}$ ,  $R^{437}$ ,  $R^{439}$ ,  $R^{440}$ ,  $R^{441}$ ,  $R^{443}$ ,  $R^{444}$ ,  $R^{445}$ ,  $R^{446}$ ,  $R^{447}$ ,  $R^{448}$ ,  $R^{449}$ ,  $R^{450}$ ,  $R^{452}$ ,  $R^{453}$ , and  $R^{454}$  are each hydrogen;

$R^{412}$ ,  $R^{414}$ ,  $R^{419}$ , and  $R^{421}$  are each independently hydrogen or deuterium;

$R^{411}$ ,  $R^{415}$ ,  $R^{418}$ , and  $R^{422}$  are each independently hydrogen, deuterium, or methyl;

$R^{413}$  and  $R^{420}$  are each independently hydrogen, deuterium, or  $OR^e$ ;

$YY$ ,  $ZZ$ , and  $AE$  are each independently  $-CH_2-$ ;

$AB$ ,  $AC$ ,  $AD$ , and  $AF$  are each  $-CH_2-$  or a butylene group;

$R^e$  at each occurrence is independently a hydrogen or a substituted or unsubstituted  $C_1-C_6$  alkyl group;

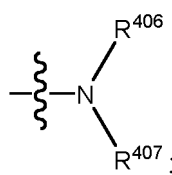
$rr$ ,  $ss$ , and  $vv$  are each independently 0 or 1;  $tt$  and  $uu$  are each 1

with the proviso that  $rr + ss + tt + uu + vv$  equals 4 or 5; and

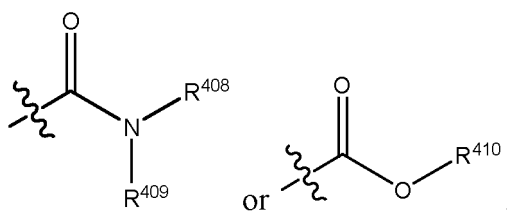
$ww$  and  $xx$  are each independently 3 or 4.

**[0061]** Alternatively, in Formula III,

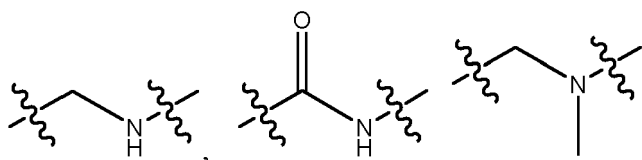
$SS$  is



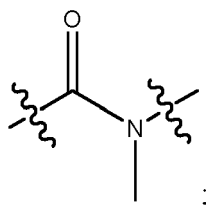
$XX$  is



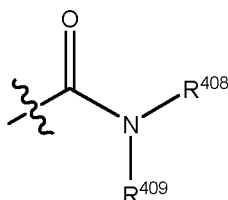
$TT$ ,  $UU$ ,  $VV$ , and  $WW$  are each independently



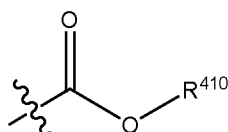
or



with the proviso when vv is 0 and uu is 1, WW is



or



**[0062]** The peptide of Formula III may be selected from the peptides shown in Table D.

TABLE D	
6-Butyric acid CoQ0-Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH <sub>2</sub>	
6-Decanoic acid CoQ0-Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH <sub>2</sub>	
H-D-N2-acetylarginine-Dmt-Lys-Phe-NH <sub>2</sub>	
H-D-N8-acetylarginine-Dmt-Lys-Phe-NH <sub>2</sub>	
H-N2-acetyl-D-arginine-L-Dmt-L-Lys-L-Phe-NH <sub>2</sub>	
H-N7-acetyl-D-arginine-Dmt-Lys-Phe-NH <sub>2</sub>	
H-Phe(d5)-D-Arg-Phe(d5)-Lys-NH <sub>2</sub>	
Succinic monoester CoQ0-Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-HN <sub>2</sub>	
Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-(atn)Dap-NH <sub>2</sub>	
Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-(dns)Dap-NH <sub>2</sub>	
Dmt-D-Arg-Ald-Lys-NH <sub>2</sub>	
Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-Ald-NH <sub>2</sub>	
Bio-2'6'Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH <sub>2</sub>	

(continued)

**TABLE D**

2'6'Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-dnsDap-NH <sub>2</sub>
2'6'Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-atnDap-NH <sub>2</sub>
H-D-Arg-Ψ[CH <sub>2</sub> -NH]Dmt-Lys-Phe-NH <sub>2</sub>
H-D-Arg-Dmt-Ψ[CH <sub>2</sub> -NH]Lys-Phe-NH <sub>2</sub>
H-D-Arg-Dmt-LysΨ[CH <sub>2</sub> -NH]Phe-NH <sub>2</sub>
H-D-Arg-Dmt-Ψ[CH <sub>2</sub> -NH]Lys-Ψ[CH <sub>2</sub> -NH]Phe-NH <sub>2</sub>

**[0063]** The peptide may be selected from the peptides shown in Table E.

**TABLE E**

Arg-D-Leu-D-Tyr-Phe-Lys-Glu-D-Lys-Arg-D-Trp-Lys-D-Phe-Tyr-D-Arg-Gly
Asp-Arg-D-Phe-Cys-Phe-D-Arg-D-Lys-Tyr-Arg-D-Tyr-Trp-D-His- Tyr-D-Phe-Lys-Phe
D-Glu-Asp-Lys-D-Arg-D-His-Phe-Phe-D-Val-Tyr-Arg-Tyr-D-Tyr-Arg-His-Phe-NH <sub>2</sub>
Glu-Arg-D-Lys-Tyr-D-Val-Phe-D-His-Trp-Arg-D-Gly-Tyr-Arg-D-Met-NH <sub>2</sub>
Gly-Ala-Lys-Phe-D-Lys-Glu-Arg-Tyr-His-D-Arg-D-Arg-Asp-Tyr-Trp-D-His-Trp-His-D-Lys-Asp
His-Tyr-D-Arg-Trp-Lys-Phe-D-Asp-Ala-Arg-Cys-D-Tyr-His-Phe-D-Lys-Tyr-His-Ser-NH <sub>2</sub>
Phe-Phe-D-Tyr-Arg-Glu-Asp-D-Lys-Arg-D-Arg-His-Phe-NH <sub>2</sub>
Phe-Tyr-Lys-D-Arg-Trp-His-D-Lys-D-Lys-Glu-Arg-D-Tyr-Thr
Thr-Tyr-Arg-D-Lys-Trp-Tyr-Glu-Asp-D-Lys-D-Arg-His-Phe-D-Tyr-Gly-Val-Ile-D-His-Arg-Tyr-Lys-NH <sub>2</sub>
Tyr-Asp-D-Lys-Tyr-Phe-D-Lys-D-Arg-Phe-Pro-D-Tyr-His-Lys
Tyr-D-His-Phe-D-Arg-Asp-Lys-D-Arg-His-Trp-D-His-Phe
Phe-Tyr-Lys-D-Arg-Trp-His-D-Lys-D-Lys-Glu-Arg-D-Tyr-Thr
Tyr-Asp-D-Lys-Tyr-Phe- D-Lys- D-Arg-Phe-Pro-D-Tyr-His-Lys
Glu-Arg-D-Lys-Tyr-D-Val-Phe- D-His-Trp-Arg-D-Gly-Tyr-Arg-D-Met-NH <sub>2</sub>
Arg-D-Leu-D-Tyr-Phe-Lys-Glu- D-Lys-Arg-D-Trp-Lys- D-Phe-Tyr-D-Arg-Gly
Gly-Ala-Lys-Phe-D-Lys-Glu-Arg-Tyr-His-D-Arg-D-Arg-Asp-Tyr-Trp-D-His-Trp-His-D-Lys-Asp
Gly-Ala-Lys-Phe-D-Lys-Glu-Arg-Tyr-His-D-Arg-D-Arg-Asp-Tyr-Trp-D-His-Trp-His-D-Lys-Asp

**[0064]** The aromatic-cationic peptides may have a core structural motif of alternating aromatic and cationic amino acids. For example, the peptide may be a tetrapeptide defined by any of Formulas A to F set forth below:

Aromatic - Cationic - Aromatic - Cationic (Formula A)

Cationic - Aromatic - Cationic - Aromatic (Formula B)

Aromatic - Aromatic - Cationic - Cationic (Formula C)

Cationic - Cationic - Aromatic - Aromatic (Formula D)

Aromatic - Cationic - Cationic - Aromatic (Formula E)

Cationic - Aromatic - Aromatic - Cationic (Formula F)

wherein, Aromatic is a residue selected from the group consisting of: Phe (F), Tyr (Y), and Trp (W). The Aromatic residue may be substituted with a saturated analog of an aromatic residue, e.g., Cyclohexylalanine (Cha). Cationic may be a residue selected from the group consisting of: Arg (R), Lys (K), and His (H).

**[0065]** The amino acids of the aromatic-cationic peptides can be any amino acid. As used herein, the term "amino acid" is used to refer to any organic molecule that contains at least one amino group and at least one carboxyl group. At least one amino group may be at the  $\alpha$  position relative to the carboxyl group.

**[0066]** The amino acids may be naturally occurring. Naturally occurring amino acids include, for example, the twenty most common levorotatory (L-) amino acids normally found in mammalian proteins, *i.e.*, alanine (Ala), arginine (Arg), asparagine (Asn), aspartic acid (Asp), cysteine (Cys), glutamine (Gln), glutamic acid (Glu), glycine (Gly), histidine (His), isoleucine (Ile), leucine (Leu), lysine (Lys), methionine (Met), phenylalanine (Phe), proline (Pro), serine (Ser), threonine (Thr), tryptophan, (Trp), tyrosine (Tyr), and valine (Val).

**[0067]** Other naturally occurring amino acids include, for example, amino acids that are synthesized in metabolic processes not associated with protein synthesis. For example, the amino acids ornithine and citrulline are synthesized in mammalian metabolism during the production of urea.

**[0068]** The peptides can contain one or more non-naturally occurring amino acids. The non-naturally occurring amino acids may be (L-), dextrorotatory (D-), or mixtures thereof. The peptide may have no amino acids that are naturally occurring.

**[0069]** Non-naturally occurring amino acids are those amino acids that typically are not synthesized in normal metabolic processes in living organisms, and do not naturally occur in proteins. The non-naturally occurring amino acids may not be recognized by common proteases.

**[0070]** The non-naturally occurring amino acid can be present at any position in the peptide. For example, the non-naturally occurring amino acid can be at the N terminus, the C-terminus, or at any position between the N-terminus and the C-terminus.

**[0071]** The non-natural amino acids may, for example, comprise alkyl, aryl, or alkylaryl groups. Some examples of alkyl amino acids include  $\alpha$ -aminobutyric acid,  $\beta$ -aminobutyric acid,  $\gamma$ -aminobutyric acid,  $\delta$ -aminovaleric acid, and  $\epsilon$ -aminocaproic acid. Some examples of aryl amino acids include ortho-, meta, and para-aminobenzoic acid. Some examples of alkylaryl amino acids include ortho-, meta-, and para-aminophenyl acetic acid, and  $\gamma$ -phenyl- $\beta$ -aminobutyric acid.

**[0072]** Non-naturally occurring amino acids also include derivatives of naturally occurring amino acids. The derivatives of naturally occurring amino acids may, for example, include the addition of one or more chemical groups to the naturally occurring amino acid.

**[0073]** For example, one or more chemical groups can be added to one or more of the 2', 3', 4', 5', or 6' position of the aromatic ring of a phenylalanine or tyrosine residue, or the 4', 5', 6', or 7' position of the benzo ring of a tryptophan residue. The group can be any chemical group that can be added to an aromatic ring. Some examples of such groups include branched or unbranched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, such as methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, butyl, isobutyl, or t-butyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy (*i.e.*, alkoxy), amino, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylamino and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> dialkylamino (*e.g.*, methylamino, dimethylamino), nitro, hydroxyl, halo (*i.e.*, fluoro, chloro, bromo, or iodo). Some specific examples of non-naturally occurring derivatives of naturally occurring amino acids include norvaline (Nva), norleucine (Nle), and hydroxyproline (Hyp).

**[0074]** Another example of a modification of an amino acid in a peptide useful in the present methods is the derivatization of a carboxyl group of an aspartic acid or a glutamic acid residue of the peptide. One example of derivatization is amidation with ammonia or with a primary or secondary amine, *e.g.*, methylamine, ethylamine, dimethylamine or diethylamine. Another example of derivatization includes esterification with, for example, methyl or ethyl alcohol.

**[0075]** Another such modification includes derivatization of an amino group of a lysine, arginine, or histidine residue. For example, such amino groups can be alkylated or acylated. Some suitable acyl groups include, for example, a benzoyl group or an alkanoyl group comprising any of the C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl groups mentioned above, such as an acetyl or propionyl group.

**[0076]** The non-naturally occurring amino acids may be resistant. The non-naturally occurring amino acids may be insensitive, to common proteases. Examples of non-naturally occurring amino acids that are resistant or insensitive to proteases include the dextrorotatory (D-) form of any of the above-mentioned naturally occurring L-amino acids, as well as Land/or D non-naturally occurring amino acids. The D-amino acids do not normally occur in proteins, although they are found in certain peptide antibiotics that are synthesized by means other than the normal ribosomal protein synthetic machinery of the cell, as used herein, the D-amino acids are considered to be non-naturally occurring amino acids.

**[0077]** In order to minimize protease sensitivity, the peptides should have less than five, less than four, less than three, or less than two contiguous L-amino acids recognized by common proteases, irrespective of whether the amino acids are naturally or non-naturally occurring. The peptide may have only D-amino acids, and no L-amino acids.

**[0078]** If the peptide contains protease sensitive sequences of amino acids, at least one of the amino acids is a non-naturally-occurring D-amino acid, thereby conferring protease resistance. An example of a protease sensitive sequence includes two or more contiguous basic amino acids that are readily cleaved by common proteases, such as endopepti-

dases and trypsin. Examples of basic amino acids include arginine, lysine and histidine. At least one of the amides in the peptide backbone may be alkylated, thereby conferring protease resistance.

[0079] It is important that the aromatic-cationic peptides have a minimum number of net positive charges at physiological pH in comparison to the total number of amino acid residues in the peptide. The minimum number of net positive charges at physiological pH is referred to below as ( $p_m$ ). The total number of amino acid residues in the peptide is referred to below as ( $r$ ).

[0080] The minimum number of net positive charges discussed below are all at physiological pH. The term "physiological pH" as used herein refers to the normal pH in the cells of the tissues and organs of the mammalian body. For instance, the physiological pH of a human is normally approximately 7.4, but normal physiological pH in mammals may be any pH from about 7.0 to about 7.8.

[0081] Typically, a peptide has a positively charged N-terminal amino group and a negatively charged C-terminal carboxyl group. The charges cancel each other out at physiological pH. As an example of calculating net charge, the peptide Tyr-Arg-Phe-Lys-Glu-His-Trp-Arg has one negatively charged amino acid (*i.e.*, Glu) and four positively charged amino acids (*i.e.*, two Arg residues, one Lys, and one His). Therefore, the above peptide has a net positive charge of three.

[0082] The aromatic-cationic peptides may have a relationship between the minimum number of net positive charges at physiological pH ( $p_m$ ) and the total number of amino acid residues ( $r$ ) wherein  $3p_m$  is the largest number that is less than or equal to  $r + 1$ . The relationship between the minimum number of net positive charges ( $p_m$ ) and the total number of amino acid residues ( $r$ ) may be as follows:

**TABLE 1. Amino acid number and net positive charges ( $3p_m \leq p+1$ )**

(r)	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
( $p_m$ )	1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3	4	4	4	5	5	5	6	6	6	7

[0083] The aromatic-cationic peptides may have a relationship between the minimum number of net positive charges ( $p_m$ ) and the total number of amino acid residues ( $r$ ) wherein  $2p_m$  is the largest number that is less than or equal to  $r + 1$ . The relationship between the minimum number of net positive charges ( $p_m$ ) and the total number of amino acid residues ( $r$ ) may be as follows:

**TABLE 2. Amino acid number and net positive charges ( $2p_m \leq p+1$ )**

(r)	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
( $p_m$ )	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	6	6	7	7	8	8	9	9	10	10

[0084] The minimum number of net positive charges ( $p_m$ ) and the total number of amino acid residues ( $r$ ) may be equal. The peptides may have three or four amino acid residues and a minimum of one net positive charge, or a minimum of two net positive charges, or a minimum of three net positive charges.

[0085] It is also important that the aromatic-cationic peptides have a minimum number of aromatic groups in comparison to the total number of net positive charges ( $p_t$ ). The minimum number of aromatic groups will be referred to below as ( $a$ ). Naturally-occurring amino acids that have an aromatic group include the amino acids histidine, tryptophan, tyrosine, and phenylalanine. For example, the hexapeptide Lys-Gln-Tyr-D-Arg-Phe-Trp has a net positive charge of two (contributed by the lysine and arginine residues) and three aromatic groups (contributed by tyrosine, phenylalanine and tryptophan residues).

[0086] The aromatic-cationic peptides should also have a relationship between the minimum number of aromatic groups ( $a$ ) and the total number of net positive charges at physiological pH ( $p_t$ ) wherein  $3a$  is the largest number that is less than or equal to  $p_t + 1$ , except that when  $p_t$  is 1,  $a$  may also be 1. The relationship between the minimum number of aromatic groups ( $a$ ) and the total number of net positive charges ( $p_t$ ) may be as follows:

**TABLE 3. Aromatic groups and net positive charges ( $3a \leq p_t+1$  or  $a = p_t=1$ )**

( $p_t$ )	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
(a)	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3	4	4	4	5	5	5	6	6	6	7

**[0087]** The aromatic-cationic peptides may have a relationship between the minimum number of aromatic groups (a) and the total number of net positive charges ( $p_t$ ) wherein  $2a$  is the largest number that is less than or equal to  $p_t + 1$ . The relationship between the minimum number of aromatic amino acid residues (a) and the total number of net positive charges ( $p_t$ ) may be as follows:

**TABLE 4. Aromatic groups and net positive charges ( $2a \leq p_t + 1$  or  $a = p_t = 1$ )**

( $p_t$ )	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
(a)	1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	6	6	7	7	8	8	9	9	10	10

**[0088]** The number of aromatic groups (a) and the total number of net positive charges ( $p_t$ ) may be equal.

**[0089]** Carboxyl groups, especially the terminal carboxyl group of a C-terminal amino acid, may be amidated with, for example, ammonia to form the C-terminal amide. Alternatively, the terminal carboxyl group of the C-terminal amino acid may be amidated with any primary or secondary amine. The primary or secondary amine may, for example, be an alkyl, especially a branched or unbranched  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl, or an aryl amine. Accordingly, the amino acid at the C-terminus of the peptide may be converted to an amido, N-methylamido, N-ethylamido, N,N-dimethylamido, N,N-diethyl amido, N-methyl-N-ethylamido, N-phenylamido or N-phenyl-N-ethylamido group.

**[0090]** The free carboxylate groups of the asparagine, glutamine, aspartic acid, and glutamic acid residues not occurring at the C-terminus of the aromatic-cationic peptides may also be amidated wherever they occur within the peptide. The amidation at these internal positions may be with ammonia or any of the primary or secondary amines described herein.

**[0091]** The aromatic-cationic peptide may be a tripeptide having two net positive charges and at least one aromatic amino acid. The aromatic-cationic peptide may be a tripeptide having two net positive charges and two aromatic amino acids.

**[0092]** The aromatic-cationic peptide may be a peptide having:

at least one net positive charge;

a minimum of four amino acids;

a maximum of about twenty amino acids;

a relationship between the minimum number of net positive charges ( $p_m$ ) and the total number of amino acid residues (r) wherein  $3p_m$  is the largest number that is less than or equal to  $r + 1$ ; and a relationship between the minimum number of aromatic groups (a) and the total number of net positive charges ( $p_t$ ) wherein  $2a$  is the largest number that is less than or equal to  $p_t + 1$ , except that when a is 1,  $p_t$  may also be 1.

**[0093]**  $2p_m$  is the largest number that is less than or equal to  $r+1$ , and a may be equal to  $p_t$ . The aromatic-cationic peptide may be a water-soluble peptide having a minimum of two or a minimum of three positive charges.

**[0094]** The peptide may comprise one or more non-naturally occurring amino acids, for example, one or more D-amino acids. The C-terminal carboxyl group of the amino acid at the C-terminus may be amidated. The peptide may have a minimum of four amino acids. The peptide may have a total of about 6, a total of about 9, or a total of about 12 amino acids.

**[0095]** The peptides may have a tyrosine residue or a tyrosine derivative at the N-terminus (*i.e.*, the first amino acid position). Suitable derivatives of tyrosine include 2'-methyltyrosine (Mmt); 2',6'-dimethyltyrosine (2',6'-Dmt); 3',5'-dimethyltyrosine (3',5'-Dmt); N,2',6'-trimethyltyrosine (Tmt); and 2'-hydroxy-6'-methyltyrosine (Hmt).

**[0096]** A peptide may have the formula Tyr-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>. Tyr-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub> has a net positive charge of three, contributed by the amino acids tyrosine, arginine, and lysine and has two aromatic groups contributed by the amino acids phenylalanine and tyrosine. The tyrosine of Tyr-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub> can be a modified derivative of tyrosine such as in 2',6'-dimethyltyrosine to produce the compound having the formula 2',6'-Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>. 2',6'-Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub> has a molecular weight of 640 and carries a net three positive charge at physiological pH. 2',6'-Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub> readily penetrates the plasma membrane of several mammalian cell types in an energy-independent manner (Zhao et al., J. Pharmacol Exp Ther., 304:425-432, 2003).

**[0097]** The aromatic-cationic peptide may not have a tyrosine residue or a derivative of tyrosine at the N-terminus (*i.e.*, amino acid position 1). The amino acid at the N-terminus can be any naturally-occurring or non-naturally-occurring amino acid other than tyrosine. The amino acid at the N-terminus may be phenylalanine or its derivative. Exemplary derivatives of phenylalanine include 2'-methylphenylalanine (Mmp), 2',6'-dimethylphenylalanine (2',6'-Dmp), N,2',6'-trimethylphenylalanine (Tmp), and 2'-hydroxy-6'-methylphenylalanine (Hmp).

**[0098]** An example of an aromatic-cationic peptide that does not have a tyrosine residue or a derivative of tyrosine at the N-terminus is a peptide with the formula Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>. Alternatively, the N-terminal phenylalanine can

be a derivative of phenylalanine such as 2',6'-dimethylphenylalanine (2',6'-Dmp). The amino acid sequence of 2',6'-Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub> may be rearranged such that Dmt is not at the N-terminus. An example of such an aromatic-cationic peptide is a peptide having the formula of D-Arg-2',6'-Dmt-Lys-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>.

**[0099]** Suitable substitution variants of the peptides listed herein include conservative amino acid substitutions. Amino acids may be grouped according to their physicochemical characteristics as follows:

(a) Non-polar amino acids: Ala(A) Ser(S) Thr(T) Pro(P) Gly(G) Cys (C);

(b) Acidic amino acids: Asn(N) Asp(D) Glu(E) Gln(Q);

(c) Basic amino acids: His(H) Arg(R) Lys(K);

(d) Hydrophobic amino acids: Met(M) Leu(L) Ile(I) Val(V); and

(e) Aromatic amino acids: Phe(F) Tyr(Y) Trp(W) .

**[0100]** Substitutions of an amino acid in a peptide by another amino acid in the same group are referred to as a conservative substitution and may preserve the physicochemical characteristics of the original peptide. In contrast, substitutions of an amino acid in a peptide by another amino acid in a different group are generally more likely to alter the characteristics of the original peptide.

**[0101]** The amino acids of the peptides disclosed herein may be in either the L- or the D-configuration.

**[0102]** The peptides may be synthesized by any of the methods well known in the art. Suitable methods for chemically synthesizing the protein include, for example, those described by Stuart and Young in Solid Phase Peptide Synthesis, Second Edition, Pierce Chemical Company (1984), and in Methods Enzymol., 289, Academic Press, Inc., New York (1997).

#### DMD

**[0103]** DMD is by far the most common childhood-onset muscular dystrophy, afflicting 1 in 3500 boys with an overall prevalence of 63 cases per million. One third of these cases are due to spontaneous mutations, while the rest are inherited in an X-linked manner. Gonadal mosaicism accounts for approximately 20% of new DMD cases.

**[0104]** DMD is caused by mutations in the dystrophin gene, which encodes a 427-kD protein that plays an integral role in the structural stability of the myofiber. Dystrophin is expressed mainly in smooth, cardiac, and skeletal muscles, with lower levels in the brain. The dystrophin gene consists of 79 exons and 8 promoters spread over 2.2 million base pairs of genomic DNA. Deletions and duplications account for approximately 59% and 5% of all dystrophin mutations, respectively. The remaining one third of the dystrophin mutations are composed of subexonic sequences, of which 34% are nonsense mutations, 33% are frameshifts, 29% are splice site mutations, and 4% are missense mutations.

#### Pathogenesis

**[0105]** Dystrophin is expressed in muscle as a 427-kD protein that consists of 2 apposed globular heads with a flexible rod-shaped center that links the intracellular actin cytoskeleton to the extracellular matrix *via* the dystroglycan complex (or dystrophin-associated glycoprotein complex). The protein is organized into 4 structural domains including the amino-terminal actin-binding domain, a central rod domain, a cysteine-rich domain, and a carboxy-terminal domain. Its amino terminal end interacts with the subsarcolemmal actin filaments of myofibrils, while cysteine-rich domains of the carboxy-terminal end associate with beta-dystroglycan as well as elements of the sarcoglycan complex, all of which are contained within the sarcolemmal membrane. Beta-dystroglycan in turn anchors the entire complex to the basal lamina *via* laminin.

**[0106]** Deletions or duplications of the dystrophin gene that disturb the reading frame, including premature stop codons, produce a severely truncated, completely dysfunctional protein product or no protein at all. The functional loss of dystrophin protein initiates a cascade of events, including loss of other components of the dystrophin-associated glycoprotein complex, sarcolemmal breakdown with attendant calcium ion influx, high levels of creatine phosphokinase, phospholipase activation, and ultimately, myonecrosis.

**[0107]** Microscopic evaluation in the early stages of the disease reveals widespread myonecrosis with fiber splitting. Inflammatory cell infiltration of the necrotic fibers may be observed in particularly aggressive areas of muscle biopsies. Fibers that survive exhibit considerable variability and often demonstrate internal nuclei. As the disease progresses, dead muscle fibers are cleared away by macrophages and replaced by fatty and connective tissue elements, conveying a deceptively healthy appearance to the muscle (pseudohypertrophy), especially calves and forearms.

## Clinical Manifestations

**[0108]** Signs and symptoms of DMD include progressive proximal weakness with onset in the legs and pelvis, hyperlordosis with wide-based gait, hypertrophy of weak muscles, pseudohypertrophy (enlargement of calf and deltoid muscles with fat and fibrotic tissue), reduced muscle contractility on electrical stimulation in advanced stages of the disease, delayed motor milestones, progressive inability to ambulate, heel cord contractures, paralysis, fatigue, skeletal deformities including scoliosis, muscle fiber deformities, cardiomyopathy, congestive heart failure or arrhythmia, muscular atrophy, respiratory disorders, and absence of bladder or bowel dysfunction, sensory disturbance, or febrile illness. Weakness of skeletal muscle can contribute to cardiopulmonary complications. Scoliotic deformity from paraspinal muscle asymmetric atrophy impairs pulmonary and gastrointestinal function, predisposing individuals to pneumonia, respiratory failure, and poor nutrition. Smooth muscle dysfunction as a result of abnormal or absent dystrophin, along with inactivity, leads to gastrointestinal dysmotility, causing constipation and diarrhea.

**[0109]** The progression of DMD occurs in 5 stages: presymptomatic, early ambulatory, late ambulatory, early nonambulatory, and late nonambulatory.

## Diagnosis

**[0110]** DMD can be diagnosed in several ways. A clinical diagnosis may be made when a male child has progressive symmetrical muscle weakness. The symptoms manifest before age 5 years. If left untreated, the affected patients become wheelchair dependent before age 13 years.

**[0111]** Muscle biopsy is an important tool for quantifying the amount of muscle dystrophin as well as for detecting asymptomatic female carriers of DMD. Immunostaining of the muscle using antibodies directed against the rod domain, carboxy-terminals, and amino-terminals of dystrophin protein shows absence of the usual sarcolemmal staining in boys with DMD.

**[0112]** Genetic alterations in dystrophin can be detected using a variety of techniques in molecular biology such as direct sequencing, multiplex PCR amplification, Southern blot, quantitative PCR, multiplex amplifiable probe hybridization (MAPH), multiplex ligation-dependent probe (MLPA), denaturing high-performance liquid chromatography (dHPLC), single-stranded conformational polymorphism analysis with single condition amplification internal primers (SCAIP), or denaturing gradient gel electrophoresis.

**[0113]** For the remaining individuals, a combination of clinical findings, family history, blood concentration of creatine phosphokinase and muscle biopsy with dystrophin studies confirms the diagnosis. Creatine phosphokinase is normally present in high concentrations in the muscle cells. However, DMD patients exhibit creatine phosphokinase levels that are 50-100 times the reference range (as high as 20,000 mU/mL) during the early stages of the disease. Electromyography, electrocardiogram and echocardiogram, and lung monitoring tests may be used for confirmatory diagnosis of DMD.

## Current Treatments

**[0114]** There is no cure for DMD. Treatment is generally aimed at controlling the onset of symptoms to maximize the quality of life and include corticosteroids (e.g., prednisone, deflazacort), Oxandrolone, ACE inhibitors (e.g., Perindopril), P188 (Poloxamer 188), beta-blockers, diuretics, angiotensin receptor blockers (e.g., Losartan), idebenone, alendronate, calcium with vitamin D, albuterol, dantrolene, pentoxifylline, carnitine, Coenzyme Q10, creatine, fish oil, green tea extracts, Vitamin E, PTC-124 (PTC Therapeutics Inc., South Plainfield, NJ), AVI-4658 phosphorodiamidate morpholino oligomer, azathioprine and cyclosporine. Unfortunately, chronic daily use of corticosteroids can cause weight gain, cataracts, osteoporosis, hypertension, diabetes, delayed puberty, stunted vertical growth, and behavioral/sleep issues.

**[0115]** Physical therapy is helpful to maintain muscle strength, flexibility, and function. Orthopedic appliances (such as braces and wheelchairs) may improve mobility and the ability for self-care. Form-fitting removable leg braces that hold the ankle in place during sleep can defer the onset of contractures. Appropriate respiratory support as the disease progresses is important.

## Regulators of Muscle Mass

**[0116]** Insulin like growth factor (IGF-1) is a positive regulator of muscle growth and has a profound effect on muscle precursor activation and proliferation. Upregulation of IGF-1 in the *mdx* mouse model for DMD exhibits functional improvement, restoration of muscle strength, and reduced fibrosis.

**[0117]** Regulation of myostatin is another alternative to preserving muscle mass and function. Myostatin is a member of the transforming growth factor beta (TGF- $\beta$ ) family and is a potent negative regulator of functional muscle mass. Overexpression of follistatin inhibits myostatin and has been shown to increase muscle mass in animal models. C. Colussi et al., Gene Therapy 15:1075-1076 (2008).



**[0118]** The utrophin gene at locus 6q24, located on the long arm of chromosome 6, shares structural and functional similarities with the dystrophin gene. Utrophin contains an actin-binding N-terminus, a triple coiled-coil repeat central region, and a C-terminus that consists of protein-protein interaction motifs which interact with dystroglycan protein components. Utrophin is expressed at the neuromuscular synapse and myotendinous junctions, where it participates in post-synaptic membrane maintenance and acetylcholine receptor clustering. Mouse studies suggest that utrophin may serve as a functional substitute for the dystrophin gene and therefore, may serve as a potential therapeutic alternative to DMD. Upregulation of the enzyme Galgt2 has been shown in animal models to be useful in stimulating the assembly of utrophin-glycoprotein complexes. Rodino-Klapac LR et al., Arch Neurol. 64(9):1236-41 (2007).

**[0119]** Inhibition of calpains can also protect muscle mass. The activity of calpains can be thwarted by calpastatin, an endogenous inhibitor of calpains. The expression of calpastatins can be increased with  $\alpha$ 2-adrenergic agonists.

#### Therapeutic Methods

**[0120]** The following discussion is presented by way of example only, and is not intended to be limiting.

**[0121]** One aspect of the invention is a peptide Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use in treating Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) in a human subject in need thereof. Thus the disclosure also relates to methods of treating DMD in a subject diagnosed as having, suspected as having, or at risk of having DMD. In therapeutic applications, compositions or medicaments comprising an aromatic-cationic peptide, such as 2'6'-Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, or D-Arg-2'6'-Dmt-Lys-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, such as acetate, tartrate, hydrochloride salt, or trifluoroacetate salt, are administered to a subject suspected of, or already suffering from such a disease (such as, e.g., subjects exhibiting elevated blood levels of creatine phosphokinase compared to a normal control subject or a subject harboring a genetic alteration that disrupts the production and/or function of dystrophin protein), in an amount sufficient to cure, or at least partially arrest, the symptoms of the disease, including its complications and intermediate pathological phenotypes in development of the disease.

**[0122]** Subjects suffering from DMD can be identified by any or a combination of diagnostic or prognostic assays known in the art. For example, typical symptoms of DMD include, but are not limited to, progressive proximal weakness with onset in the legs and pelvis, hyperlordosis with wide-based gait, hypertrophy of weak muscles, pseudohypertrophy (enlargement of calf and deltoid muscles with fat and fibrotic tissue), reduced muscle contractility on electrical stimulation in advanced stages of the disease, delayed motor milestones, progressive inability to ambulate, heel cord contractures, paralysis, fatigue, skeletal deformities including scoliosis, muscle fiber deformities, cardiomyopathy, congestive heart failure or arrhythmia, muscular atrophy, respiratory disorders, and absence of bladder or bowel dysfunction, sensory disturbance, or febrile illness.

**[0123]** The subject may exhibit elevated blood levels of creatine phosphokinase compared to a normal control subject, which is measureable using techniques known in the art. The subject may exhibit one or more genetic alterations that disrupt the production or function of dystrophin, which is involved in the assembly of the dystrophin-associated glycoprotein complex and is integral to the structural stability of the myofiber. The genetic alteration may be a deletion, duplication, frameshift, or nonsense mutation of dystrophin that is detectable using techniques known in the art.

**[0124]** DMD subjects treated with the aromatic-cationic peptide may show amelioration or elimination of one or more of the following symptoms: progressive proximal weakness with onset in the legs and pelvis, hyperlordosis with wide-based gait, hypertrophy of weak muscles, pseudohypertrophy (enlargement of calf and deltoid muscles with fat and fibrotic tissue), reduced muscle contractility on electrical stimulation in advanced stages of the disease, delayed motor milestones, progressive inability to ambulate, heel cord contractures, paralysis, fatigue, skeletal deformities including scoliosis, muscle fiber deformities, cardiomyopathy, congestive heart failure or arrhythmia, muscular atrophy, and respiratory disorders.

**[0125]** DMD subjects treated with the aromatic-cationic peptide may show normalization of creatine phosphokinase blood levels by at least 5%, at least 10%, at least 25%, at least 50%, at least 75%, or at least 90% compared to untreated DMD subjects. DMD subjects treated with the aromatic-cationic peptide may show creatine phosphokinase blood levels that are similar to that observed in a normal control subject.

**[0126]** DMD subjects treated with the aromatic-cationic peptide may show an increase in utrophin expression levels and/or activity by at least 5%, at least 10%, at least 25%, at least 50%, at least 75%, or at least 90% compared to an untreated DMD control subject. DMD subjects treated with the aromatic-cationic peptide may show an increase in IGF-1 expression levels and/or activity by at least 5%, at least 10%, at least 25%, at least 50%, at least 75%, or at least 90% compared to an untreated DMD control subject. DMD subjects treated with the aromatic-cationic peptide may show an increase in follistatin expression levels and/or activity by at least 5%, at least 10%, at least 25%, at least 50%, at least 75%, or at least 90% compared to an untreated DMD control subject.

**[0127]** DMD subjects treated with the aromatic-cationic peptide may show an increase in Galgt2 expression levels and/or activity by at least 5%, at least 10%, at least 25%, at least 50%, at least 75%, or at least 90% compared to an untreated DMD control subject. DMD subjects treated with the aromatic-cationic peptide may show an increase in

calpastatin expression levels and/or activity by at least 5%, at least 10%, at least 25%, at least 50%, at least 75%, or at least 90% compared to an untreated DMD control subject. DMD subjects treated with the aromatic-cationic peptide may show a decrease in calpain expression levels and/or activity by at least 5%, at least 10%, at least 25%, at least 50%, at least 75%, or at least 90% compared to an untreated DMD control subject.

#### Prophylactic Methods

**[0128]** The disclosure relates to a method for preventing or delaying the onset of DMD or symptoms of DMD in a subject at risk of having DMD. The subject may exhibit one or more mutations in dystrophin, which is involved in the assembly of the dystrophin-associated glycoprotein complex.

**[0129]** Subjects at risk for elevated blood levels of creatine phosphokinase compared to a normal control subject or at risk for DMD can be identified by, e.g., any or a combination of diagnostic or prognostic assays known in the art. In prophylactic applications, pharmaceutical compositions or medicaments of aromatic-cationic peptides, such as 2'6'-Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, or D-Arg-2'6'-Dmt-Lys-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, such as acetate, tartrate, hydrochloride salt, or trifluoroacetate salt, are administered to a subject susceptible to, or otherwise at risk of a disease or condition such as e.g., DMD, in an amount sufficient to eliminate or reduce the risk, or delay the onset of the disease, including biochemical, histologic and/or behavioral symptoms of the disease, its complications and intermediate pathological phenotypes presenting during development of the disease. Administration of a prophylactic aromatic-cationic peptide can occur prior to the manifestation of symptoms characteristic of the disease or disorder, such that the disease or disorder is prevented or, alternatively, delayed in its progression.

**[0130]** Subjects at risk for elevated blood levels of creatine phosphokinase compared to a normal control subject or DMD include, but are not limited to, subjects harboring mutations in dystrophin, which is involved in the assembly of the dystrophin-associated glycoprotein complex.

**[0131]** For therapeutic and/or prophylactic applications, a composition comprising an aromatic-cationic peptide, such as 2'6'-Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, or D-Arg-2'6'-Dmt-Lys-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, such as acetate, tartrate, hydrochloride salt, or trifluoroacetate salt, is administered to the subject. The peptide composition may be administered one, two, three, four, or five times per day. The peptide composition may be administered more than five times per day. The peptide composition may be administered every day, every other day, every third day, every fourth day, every fifth day, or every sixth day. The peptide composition may be administered weekly, bi-weekly, tri-weekly, or monthly. The peptide composition may be administered for a period of one, two, three, four, or five weeks. The peptide may be administered for six weeks or more. The peptide may be administered for twelve weeks or more. The peptide may be administered for a period of less than one year. The peptide may be administered for a period of more than one year.

**[0132]** The aromatic-cationic peptide may be administered daily for 1 week or more. The aromatic-cationic peptide may be administered daily for 2 weeks or more. The aromatic-cationic peptide may be administered daily for 3 weeks or more. The aromatic-cationic peptide may be administered daily for 4 weeks or more. The aromatic-cationic peptide may be administered daily for 6 weeks or more. The aromatic-cationic peptide may be administered daily for 12 weeks or more.

**[0133]** Treatment with the aromatic-cationic peptide may prevent or delay the onset of one or more of the following symptoms: progressive proximal weakness with onset in the legs and pelvis, hyperlordosis with wide-based gait, hypertrophy of weak muscles, pseudohypertrophy (enlargement of calf and deltoid muscles with fat and fibrotic tissue), reduced muscle contractility on electrical stimulation in advanced stages of the disease, delayed motor milestones, progressive inability to ambulate, heel cord contractures, paralysis, fatigue, skeletal deformities including scoliosis, muscle fiber deformities, cardiomyopathy, congestive heart failure or arrhythmia, muscular atrophy, and respiratory disorders. The blood levels of creatine phosphokinase in DMD subjects treated with the aromatic-cationic peptide may resemble those observed in healthy controls.

**[0134]** Treatment with the aromatic-cationic peptide may result in an increase in utrophin expression levels and/or activity relative to that observed in an untreated DMD control subject. Treatment with the aromatic-cationic peptide may result in an increase in IGF-1 expression levels and/or activity relative to that observed in an untreated DMD control subject. Treatment with the aromatic-cationic peptide may result in an increase in follistatin expression levels and/or activity relative to that observed in an untreated DMD control subject.

**[0135]** Treatment with the aromatic-cationic peptide may result in an increase in Galgt2 expression levels and/or activity relative to that observed in an untreated DMD control subject. Treatment with the aromatic-cationic peptide may result in an increase in calpastatin expression levels and/or activity relative to that observed in an untreated DMD control subject. Treatment with the aromatic-cationic peptide may result in a reduction of calpain expression levels and/or activity relative to that observed in an untreated DMD control subject.

Determination of the Biological Effect of the Aromatic-Cationic Peptide-Based Therapeutic

**[0136]** Suitable *in vitro* or *in vivo* assays may be performed to determine the effect of a specific aromatic-cationic peptide-based therapeutic and whether its administration is indicated for treatment. *In vitro* assays can be performed with representative animal models, to determine if a given aromatic-cationic peptide-based therapeutic exerts the desired effect on reducing or eliminating signs and/or symptoms of DMD. Compounds for use in therapy can be tested in suitable animal model systems including, but not limited to rats, mice, chicken, cows, monkeys, rabbits, and the like, prior to testing in human subjects. Similarly, for *in vivo* testing, any of the animal model system known in the art can be used prior to administration to human subjects. *In vitro* or *in vivo* testing is directed to the biological function of 2'6'-Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, or D-Arg-2'6'-Dmt-Lys-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, such as acetate, tartrate, hydrochloride salt, or trifluoroacetate salt.

**[0137]** Animal models of DMD are known in the art, including, for example Golden retriever muscular dystrophy (GRMD) dogs, CXMDJ beagle dogs, hypertrophic feline muscular dystrophy (hfmmd) cats, and *mdx* mice. See Spurney C., Muscle Nerve 44(1):8-19 (2011); Willmann R. et al., Neuromuscular Disorders 19:241-249 (2009); Partridge TA, FEBS J. 280(17):4177-86 (2013). Such models may be used to demonstrate the biological effect of aromatic-cationic peptides disclosed herein, such as 2'6'-Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, or D-Arg-2'6'-Dmt-Lys-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>, in the prevention and treatment of conditions arising from disruption of a particular gene, and for determining what comprises a therapeutically effective amount of peptide in a given context.

Modes of Administration and Effective Dosages

**[0138]** Any method known to those in the art for contacting a cell, organ or tissue with an aromatic-cationic peptide disclosed herein, such as 2'6'-Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, or D-Arg-2'6'-Dmt-Lys-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, such as acetate, tartrate, hydrochloride salt, or trifluoroacetate salt, may be employed. Suitable methods include *in vitro*, *ex vivo*, or *in vivo* methods. *In vivo* methods typically include the administration of an aromatic-cationic peptide, such as those described above, to a mammal, suitably a human. When used *in vivo* for therapy, the aromatic-cationic peptides, such as 2'6'-Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, or D-Arg-2'6'-Dmt-Lys-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, such as acetate, tartrate, hydrochloride salt, or trifluoroacetate salt, are administered to the subject in effective amounts (*i.e.*, amounts that have desired therapeutic effect). The dose and dosage regimen will depend upon the degree of the infection in the subject, the characteristics of the particular aromatic-cationic peptide used, *e.g.*, its therapeutic index, the subject, and the subject's history.

**[0139]** The effective amount may be determined during pre-clinical trials and clinical trials by methods familiar to physicians and clinicians. An effective amount of a peptide useful in the methods may be administered to a mammal in need thereof by any of a number of well-known methods for administering pharmaceutical compounds. The peptide may be administered systemically or locally.

**[0140]** The peptide may be formulated as a pharmaceutically acceptable salt. The term "pharmaceutically acceptable salt" means a salt prepared from a base or an acid which is acceptable for administration to a patient, such as a mammal (*e.g.*, salts having acceptable mammalian safety for a given dosage regime). However, it is understood that the salts are not required to be pharmaceutically acceptable salts, such as salts of intermediate compounds that are not intended for administration to a patient. Pharmaceutically acceptable salts can be derived from pharmaceutically acceptable inorganic or organic bases and from pharmaceutically acceptable inorganic or organic acids. In addition, when a peptide contains both a basic moiety, such as an amine, pyridine or imidazole, and an acidic moiety such as a carboxylic acid or tetrazole, zwitterions may be formed and are included within the term "salt" as used herein. Salts derived from pharmaceutically acceptable inorganic bases include ammonium, calcium, copper, ferric, ferrous, lithium, magnesium, manganic, manganous, potassium, sodium, and zinc salts, and the like. Salts derived from pharmaceutically acceptable organic bases include salts of primary, secondary and tertiary amines, including substituted amines, cyclic amines, naturally-occurring amines and the like, such as arginine, betaine, caffeine, choline, N,N'-dibenzylethylenediamine, diethylamine, 2-diethylaminoethanol, 2-dimethylaminoethanol, ethanolamine, ethylenediamine, N-ethylmorpholine, N-ethylpiperidine, glucamine, glucosamine, histidine, hydrabamine, isopropylamine, lysine, methylglucamine, morpholine, piperazine, piperidine, polyamine resins, procaine, purines, theobromine, triethylamine, trimethylamine, tripropylamine, tromethamine and the like. Salts derived from pharmaceutically acceptable inorganic acids include salts of boric, carbonic, hydrohalic (hydrobromic, hydrochloric, hydrofluoric or hydroiodic), nitric, phosphoric, sulfamic and sulfuric acids. Salts derived from pharmaceutically acceptable organic acids include salts of aliphatic hydroxyl acids (*e.g.*, citric, gluconic, glycolic, lactic, lactobionic, malic, and tartaric acids), aliphatic monocarboxylic acids (*e.g.*, acetic, butyric, formic, propionic and trifluoroacetic acids), amino acids (*e.g.*, aspartic and glutamic acids), aromatic carboxylic acids (*e.g.*, benzoic, p-chlorobenzoic, diphenylacetic, gentisic, hippuric, and triphenylacetic acids), aromatic hydroxyl acids (*e.g.*, o-hydroxybenzoic, p-hydroxybenzoic, 1-hydroxynaphthalene-2-carboxylic and 3-hydroxynaphthalene-2-carboxylic acids), ascorbic, dicarboxylic acids (*e.g.*, fumaric, maleic, oxalic and succinic acids), glucuronic, mandelic, mucic, nicotinic, orotic,

pamoic, pantothenic, sulfonic acids (e.g., benzenesulfonic, camphosulfonic, edisyllic, ethanesulfonic, isethionic, methanesulfonic, naphthalenesulfonic, naphthalene-1,5-disulfonic, naphthalene-2,6-disulfonic and p-toluenesulfonic acids), xinafoic acid, and the like. The salt may be an acetate, tartrate, or trifluoroacetate salt.

**[0141]** The aromatic-cationic peptides described herein, such as 2'6'-Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, or D-Arg-2'6'-Dmt-Lys-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, such as acetate, tartrate, hydrochloride salt, or trifluoroacetate salt, can be incorporated into pharmaceutical compositions for administration, singly or in combination, to a subject for the treatment or prevention of a disorder described herein. Such compositions typically include the active agent and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. As used herein the term "pharmaceutically acceptable carrier" includes saline, solvents, dispersion media, coatings, antibacterial and antifungal agents, isotonic and absorption delaying agents, and the like, compatible with pharmaceutical administration. Supplementary active compounds can also be incorporated into the compositions.

**[0142]** Pharmaceutical compositions are typically formulated to be compatible with its intended route of administration. Examples of routes of administration include parenteral (e.g., intravenous, intradermal, intraperitoneal or subcutaneous), oral, inhalation, transdermal (topical), intraocular, iontophoretic, and transmucosal administration. Solutions or suspensions used for parenteral, intradermal, or subcutaneous application can include the following components: a sterile diluent such as water for injection, saline solution, fixed oils, polyethylene glycols, glycerine, propylene glycol or other synthetic solvents; antibacterial agents such as benzyl alcohol or methyl parabens; antioxidants such as ascorbic acid or sodium bisulfite; chelating agents such as ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid; buffers such as acetates, citrates or phosphates and agents for the adjustment of tonicity such as sodium chloride or dextrose. pH can be adjusted with acids or bases, such as hydrochloric acid or sodium hydroxide. The parenteral preparation can be enclosed in ampoules, disposable syringes or multiple dose vials made of glass or plastic. For convenience of the patient or treating physician, the dosing formulation can be provided in a kit containing all necessary equipment (e.g., vials of drug, vials of diluent, syringes and needles) for a treatment course (e.g., 7 days of treatment).

**[0143]** Pharmaceutical compositions suitable for injectable use can include sterile aqueous solutions (where water soluble) or dispersions and sterile powders for the extemporaneous preparation of sterile injectable solutions or dispersion. For intravenous administration, suitable carriers include physiological saline, bacteriostatic water, Cremophor EL™ (BASF, Parsippany, N.J.) or phosphate buffered saline (PBS). In all cases, a composition for parenteral administration must be sterile and should be fluid to the extent that easy syringability exists. It should be stable under the conditions of manufacture and storage and must be preserved against the contaminating action of microorganisms such as bacteria and fungi.

**[0144]** The aromatic-cationic peptide compositions can include a carrier, which can be a solvent or dispersion medium containing, for example, water, ethanol, polyol (for example, glycerol, propylene glycol, and liquid polyethylene glycol, and the like), and suitable mixtures thereof. The proper fluidity can be maintained, for example, by the use of a coating such as lecithin, by the maintenance of the required particle size in the case of dispersion and by the use of surfactants. Prevention of the action of microorganisms can be achieved by various antibacterial and antifungal agents, for example, parabens, chlorobutanol, phenol, ascorbic acid, thiomersol, and the like. Glutathione and other antioxidants can be included to prevent oxidation. In many cases, it will be advantageous to include isotonic agents, for example, sugars, polyalcohols such as mannitol, sorbitol, or sodium chloride in the composition. Prolonged absorption of the injectable compositions can be brought about by including in the composition an agent that delays absorption, for example, aluminum monostearate or gelatin.

**[0145]** Sterile injectable solutions can be prepared by incorporating the active compound in the required amount in an appropriate solvent with one or a combination of ingredients enumerated above, as required, followed by filtered sterilization. Generally, dispersions are prepared by incorporating the active compound into a sterile vehicle, which contains a basic dispersion medium and the required other ingredients from those enumerated above. In the case of sterile powders for the preparation of sterile injectable solutions, typical methods of preparation include vacuum drying and freeze drying, which can yield a powder of the active ingredient plus any additional desired ingredient from a previously sterile-filtered solution thereof.

**[0146]** Oral compositions generally include an inert diluent or an edible carrier. For the purpose of oral therapeutic administration, the active compound can be incorporated with excipients and used in the form of tablets, troches, or capsules, e.g., gelatin capsules. Oral compositions can also be prepared using a fluid carrier for use as a mouthwash. Pharmaceutically compatible binding agents, and/or adjuvant materials can be included as part of the composition. The tablets, pills, capsules, troches and the like can contain any of the following ingredients, or compounds of a similar nature: a binder such as microcrystalline cellulose, gum tragacanth or gelatin; an excipient such as starch or lactose, a disintegrating agent such as alginic acid, Primogel, or corn starch; a lubricant such as magnesium stearate or Sterotes; a glidant such as colloidal silicon dioxide; a sweetening agent such as sucrose or saccharin; or a flavoring agent such as peppermint, methyl salicylate, or orange flavoring.

**[0147]** For administration by inhalation, the compounds can be delivered in the form of an aerosol spray from a pressurized container or dispenser, which contains a suitable propellant, e.g., a gas such as carbon dioxide, or a nebulizer.

Such methods include those described in U.S. Pat. No. 6,468,798.

**[0148]** Systemic administration of a therapeutic compound as described herein can also be by transmucosal or transdermal means. For transmucosal or transdermal administration, penetrants appropriate to the barrier to be permeated are used in the formulation. Such penetrants are generally known in the art, and include, for example, for transmucosal

administration, detergents, bile salts, and fusidic acid derivatives. Transmucosal administration can be accomplished through the use of nasal sprays. For transdermal administration, the active compounds are formulated into ointments, salves, gels, or creams as generally known in the art. Transdermal administration may be performed by iontophoresis.

**[0149]** A therapeutic protein or peptide can be formulated in a carrier system. The carrier can be a colloidal system. The colloidal system can be a liposome, a phospholipid bilayer vehicle. The therapeutic peptide may be encapsulated in a liposome while maintaining peptide integrity. One skilled in the art would appreciate that there are a variety of methods to prepare liposomes. (See Lichtenberg, et al., *Methods Biochem. Anal.*, 33:337-462 (1988); Anselem, et al., *Liposome Technology*, CRC Press (1993)). Liposomal formulations can delay clearance and increase cellular uptake (See Reddy, *Ann. Pharmacother.*, 34(7-8):915-923 (2000)). An active agent can also be loaded into a particle prepared from pharmaceutically acceptable ingredients including, but not limited to, soluble, insoluble, permeable, impermeable, biodegradable or gastroretentive polymers or liposomes. Such particles include, but are not limited to, nanoparticles, biodegradable nanoparticles, microparticles, biodegradable microparticles, nanospheres, biodegradable nanospheres, microspheres, biodegradable microspheres, capsules, emulsions, liposomes, micelles and viral vector systems.

**[0150]** The carrier can also be a polymer, e.g., a biodegradable, biocompatible polymer matrix. The therapeutic peptide can be embedded in the polymer matrix, while maintaining protein integrity. The polymer may be natural, such as polypeptides, proteins or polysaccharides, or synthetic, such as poly  $\alpha$ -hydroxy acids. Examples include carriers made of, e.g., collagen, fibronectin, elastin, cellulose acetate, cellulose nitrate, polysaccharide, fibrin, gelatin, and combinations thereof. The polymer may be poly-lactic acid (PLA) or copoly lactic/glycolic acid (PGLA). The polymeric matrices can be prepared and isolated in a variety of forms and sizes, including microspheres and nanospheres. Polymer formulations can lead to prolonged duration of therapeutic effect. (See Reddy, *Ann. Pharmacother.*, 34(7-8):915-923 (2000)). A polymer formulation for human growth hormone (hGH) has been used in clinical trials. (See Kozarich and Rich, *Chemical Biology*, 2:548-552 (1998)).

**[0151]** Examples of polymer microsphere sustained release formulations are described in PCT publication WO 99/15154 (Tracy, et al.), U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,674,534 and 5,716,644 (both to Zale, et al.), PCT publication WO 96/40073 (Zale, et al.), and PCT publication WO 00/38651 (Shah, et al.). U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,674,534 and 5,716,644 and PCT publication WO 96/40073 describe a polymeric matrix containing particles of erythropoietin that are stabilized against aggregation with a salt.

**[0152]** The therapeutic compounds may be prepared with carriers that will protect the therapeutic compounds against rapid elimination from the body, such as a controlled release formulation, including implants and microencapsulated delivery systems. Biodegradable, biocompatible polymers can be used, such as ethylene vinyl acetate, polyanhydrides, polyglycolic acid, collagen, polyorthoesters, and polylactic acid. Such formulations can be prepared using known techniques. The materials can also be obtained commercially, e.g., from Alza Corporation and Nova Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Liposomal suspensions (including liposomes targeted to specific cells with monoclonal antibodies to cell-specific antigens) can also be used as pharmaceutically acceptable carriers. These can be prepared according to methods known to those skilled in the art, for example, as described in U.S. Pat. No. 4,522,811.

**[0153]** The therapeutic compounds can also be formulated to enhance intracellular delivery. For example, liposomal delivery systems are known in the art, see, e.g., Chonn and Cullis, "Recent Advances in Liposome Drug Delivery Systems," *Current Opinion in Biotechnology* 6:698-708 (1995); Weiner, "Liposomes for Protein Delivery: Selecting Manufacture and Development Processes," *Immunomethods*, 4(3):201-9 (1994); and Gregoriadis, "Engineering Liposomes for Drug Delivery: Progress and Problems," *Trends Biotechnol.*, 13(12):527-37 (1995). Mizguchi, et al., *Cancer Lett.*, 100:63-69 (1996), describes the use of fusogenic liposomes to deliver a protein to cells both *in vivo* and *in vitro*.

**[0154]** Dosage, toxicity and therapeutic efficacy of any therapeutic agent can be determined by standard pharmaceutical procedures in cell cultures or experimental animals, e.g., for determining the LD<sub>50</sub> (the dose lethal to 50% of the population) and the ED<sub>50</sub> (the dose therapeutically effective in 50% of the population). The dose ratio between toxic and therapeutic effects is the therapeutic index and it can be expressed as the ratio LD<sub>50</sub>/ED<sub>50</sub>. Compounds that exhibit high therapeutic indices are advantageous. While compounds that exhibit toxic side effects may be used, care should be taken to design a delivery system that targets such compounds to the site of affected tissue in order to minimize potential damage to uninfected cells and, thereby, reduce side effects.

**[0155]** The data obtained from the cell culture assays and animal studies can be used in formulating a range of dosage for use in humans. The dosage of such compounds may be within a range of circulating concentrations that include the ED<sub>50</sub> with little or no toxicity. The dosage may vary within this range depending upon the dosage form employed and the route of administration utilized. For any compound used in the methods, the therapeutically effective dose can be estimated initially from cell culture assays. A dose can be formulated in animal models to achieve a circulating plasma concentration range that includes the IC<sub>50</sub> (i.e., the concentration of the test compound which achieves a half-maximal

inhibition of symptoms) as determined in cell culture. Such information can be used to determine useful doses in humans accurately. Levels in plasma may be measured, for example, by high performance liquid chromatography.

**[0156]** Typically, an effective amount of the aromatic-cationic peptides, sufficient for achieving a therapeutic or prophylactic effect, ranges from about 0.000001 mg per kilogram body weight per day to about 10,000 mg per kilogram body weight per day. Suitably, the dosage ranges are from about 0.0001 mg per kilogram body weight per day to about 100 mg per kilogram body weight per day. For example dosages can be 1 mg/kg body weight or 10 mg/kg body weight every day, every two days or every three days or within the range of 1-10 mg/kg every week, every two weeks or every three weeks. A single dosage of peptide ranges from 0.001-10,000 micrograms per kg body weight. Aromatic-cationic peptide concentrations in a carrier may range from 0.2 to 2000 micrograms per delivered milliliter. An exemplary treatment regime entails administration once per day or once a week. In therapeutic applications, a relatively high dosage at relatively short intervals is sometimes required until progression of the disease is reduced or terminated, or until the subject shows partial or complete amelioration of symptoms of disease. Thereafter, the patient can be administered a prophylactic regime.

**[0157]** A therapeutically effective amount of an aromatic-cationic peptide may be defined as a concentration of peptide at the target tissue of  $10^{-12}$  to  $10^{-6}$  molar, *e.g.*, approximately  $10^{-7}$  molar. This concentration may be delivered by systemic doses of 0.001 to 100 mg/kg or equivalent dose by body surface area. The schedule of doses would be optimized to maintain the therapeutic concentration at the target tissue, such as by single daily or weekly administration, but also including continuous administration (*e.g.*, parenteral infusion or transdermal application).

**[0158]** The skilled artisan will appreciate that certain factors may influence the dosage and timing required to effectively treat a subject, including but not limited to, the severity of the disease or disorder, previous treatments, the general health and/or age of the subject, and other diseases present. Moreover, treatment of a subject with a therapeutically effective amount of the therapeutic compositions described herein can include a single treatment or a series of treatments.

**[0159]** The mammal treated in accordance with the present methods can be any mammal, including, for example, farm animals, such as sheep, pigs, cows, and horses; pet animals, such as dogs and cats; laboratory animals, such as rats, mice and rabbits. The mammal may be a human.

#### Combination Therapy with Aromatic-Cationic Peptides

**[0160]** The aromatic-cationic peptides, such as 2'6'-Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, or D-Arg-2'6'-Dmt-Lys-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, such as acetate, tartrate, hydrochloride salt, or trifluoroacetate salt, may be combined with one or more additional therapies for the prevention or treatment of DMD. Additional therapeutic agents include, but are not limited to, corticosteroids, Oxandrolone, ACE inhibitors, P188 (Poloxamer 188), beta-blockers, diuretics, angiotensin receptor blockers (ARBs), idebenone, alendronate, calcium with vitamin D, albuterol, dantrolene, pentoxifylline, carnitine, Coenzyme Q10, creatine, fish oil, green tea extracts, Vitamin E, PTC-124 (PTC Therapeutics Inc., South Plainfield, NJ), AVI-4658 phosphorodiamidate morpholino oligomer, azathioprine and cyclosporine.

**[0161]** The corticosteroids may be selected from the group consisting of prednisone and deflazacort. The ACE inhibitors may be selected from the group consisting of captopril, alacepril, lisinopril, imidapril, quinapril, temocapril, delapril, benazepril, cilazapril, trandolapril, enalapril, ceronapril, fosinopril, imadapril, mobertpril, perindopril, ramipril, spirapril, randolapril and pharmaceutically acceptable salts of such compounds. The ARBs may be selected from the group consisting of losartan, candesartan, valsartan, eprosartan, telmisartan, and irbesartan.

**[0162]** An additional therapeutic agent may be administered to a subject in combination with an aromatic cationic peptide, such that a synergistic therapeutic effect is produced. For example, administration of the peptide with one or more additional therapeutic agents for the prevention or treatment of DMD will have greater than additive effects in the prevention or treatment of the disease. Therefore, lower doses of one or more of any individual therapeutic agent may be used in treating or preventing DMD, resulting in increased therapeutic efficacy and decreased side-effects. The aromatic-cationic peptide may be administered in combination with one or more additional therapeutic agents selected from the group consisting of corticosteroids, Oxandrolone, ACE inhibitors, P188 (Poloxamer 188), beta-blockers, diuretics, ARBs, idebenone, alendronate, calcium with vitamin D, albuterol, dantrolene, pentoxifylline, carnitine, Coenzyme Q10, creatine, fish oil, green tea extracts, Vitamin E, PTC-124 (PTC Therapeutics Inc., South Plainfield, NJ), AVI-4658 phosphorodiamidate morpholino oligomer, azathioprine and cyclosporine, such that a synergistic effect in the prevention or treatment of DMD results.

**[0163]** In any case, the multiple therapeutic agents may be administered in any order or even simultaneously. If simultaneously, the multiple therapeutic agents may be provided in a single, unified form, or in multiple forms (by way of example only, either as a single pill or as two separate pills). One of the therapeutic agents may be given in multiple doses, or both may be given as multiple doses. If not simultaneous, the timing between the multiple doses may vary from more than zero weeks to less than four weeks. In addition, the combination methods, compositions and formulations are not to be limited to the use of only two agents.

**EXAMPLES**

**[0164]** The present technology is further illustrated by the following examples, which should not be construed as limiting in any way. For each of the examples below, any aromatic-cationic peptide described herein could be used. By way of example, but not by limitation, the aromatic-cationic peptide used in the example below could be 2'6'-Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, or D-Arg-2'6'-Dmt-Lys-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub> or any one or more of the peptides shown in Tables A, B, C, D, and/or E.

Example 1 - Use of Aromatic-Cationic Peptides in the Treatment of DMD in Humans

**[0165]** This Example demonstrates the use of aromatic-cationic peptides, such as 2'6'-Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, or D-Arg-2'6'-Dmt-Lys-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, such as acetate, tartrate, hydrochloride salt, or trifluoroacetate salt, in the treatment of DMD.

Methods

**[0166]** Subjects suspected of having or diagnosed as having DMD receive daily administrations of 1%, 5% or 10% solution of aromatic-cationic peptide, such as 2'6'-Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, or D-Arg-2'6'-Dmt-Lys-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, such as acetate, tartrate, hydrochloride salt, or trifluoroacetate salt, alone or in combination with one or more additional therapeutic agents for the treatment or prevention of DMD. Peptides and/or additional therapeutic agents selected from the group consisting of: corticosteroids, Oxandrolone, ACE inhibitors, P188 (Poloxamer 188), beta-blockers, diuretics, angiotensin receptor blockers (ARBs), idebenone, alendronate, calcium with vitamin D, albuterol, dantrolene, pentoxifylline, carnitine, Coenzyme Q10, creatine, fish oil, green tea extracts, Vitamin E, PTC-124 (PTC Therapeutics Inc., South Plainfield, NJ), AVI-4658 phosphorodiamidate morpholino oligomer, azathioprine and cyclosporine, are administered orally, topically, systemically, intravenously, subcutaneously, intraperitoneally, or intramuscularly according to methods known in the art. Dosages of the one or more additional therapeutic agents will range between 0.1 mg/kg to 50 mg/kg. Subjects will be evaluated weekly for the presence and/or severity of signs and symptoms associated with DMD, including, but not limited to, e.g., progressive proximal weakness with onset in the legs and pelvis, hyperlordosis with wide-based gait, hypertrophy of weak muscles, pseudohypertrophy (enlargement of calf and deltoid muscles with fat and fibrotic tissue), reduced muscle contractility on electrical stimulation in advanced stages of the disease, delayed motor milestones, progressive inability to ambulate, heel cord contractures, paralysis, fatigue, skeletal deformities including scoliosis, muscle fiber deformities, cardiomyopathy, congestive heart failure or arrhythmia, muscular atrophy, and respiratory disorders. Treatments are maintained until such a time as one or more signs or symptoms of DMD are ameliorated or eliminated.

Results

**[0167]** It is predicted that subjects suspected of having or diagnosed as having DMD and receiving therapeutically effective amounts of aromatic-cationic peptide, such as 2'6'-Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, or D-Arg-2'6'-Dmt-Lys-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, such as acetate, tartrate, or trifluoroacetate salt will display reduced severity or elimination of symptoms associated with DMD. It is also expected that DMD subjects treated with the aromatic-cationic peptide will show normalization of creatine phosphokinase blood levels by at least 5% compared to the untreated DMD controls. It is further expected that administration of 2'6'-Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, or D-Arg-2'6'-Dmt-Lys-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub> in combination with one or more additional therapeutic agents will have synergistic effects in this regard compared to that observed in subjects treated with the aromatic-cationic peptides or the additional therapeutic agents alone.

**[0168]** These results will show that aromatic-cationic peptides, such as 2'6'-Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, or D-Arg-2'6'-Dmt-Lys-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, such as acetate, tartrate, or trifluoroacetate salt are useful in the treatment of DMD. These results will show that aromatic-cationic peptides, such as 2'6'-Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, or D-Arg-2'6'-Dmt-Lys-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, such as acetate, tartrate, or trifluoroacetate salt are useful in ameliorating one or more of the following symptoms: progressive proximal weakness with onset in the legs and pelvis, hyperlordosis with wide-based gait, hypertrophy of weak muscles, pseudohypertrophy (enlargement of calf and deltoid muscles with fat and fibrotic tissue), reduced muscle contractility on electrical stimulation in advanced stages of the disease, delayed motor milestones, progressive inability to ambulate, heel cord contractures, paralysis, fatigue, skeletal deformities including scoliosis, muscle fiber deformities, cardiomyopathy, congestive heart failure or arrhythmia, muscular atrophy, and respiratory disorders. Accordingly, the peptides are useful in methods comprising administering aromatic-cationic peptides to a subject in need thereof for the treatment of DMD.

Example 2 - Use of Aromatic-Cationic Peptides in the Prevention of DMD in Humans

**[0169]** This example demonstrates the use of aromatic-cationic peptides, such as 2'6'-Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, or D-Arg-2'6'-Dmt-Lys-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, such as acetate, tartrate, hydrochloride salt, or trifluoroacetate salt, in the prevention of DMD.

Methods

**[0170]** Subjects at risk of having DMD receive daily administrations of 1%, 5% or 10% solution of aromatic-cationic peptide, such as 2'6'-Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, or D-Arg-2'6'-Dmt-Lys-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, such as acetate, tartrate, hydrochloride salt, or trifluoroacetate salt, alone or in combination with one or more additional therapeutic agents for the treatment or prevention of DMD. Peptides and/or additional therapeutic agents selected from the group consisting of: corticosteroids, Oxandrolone, ACE inhibitors, P188 (Poloxamer 188), beta-blockers, diuretics, angiotensin receptor blockers (ARBs), idebenone, alendronate, calcium with vitamin D, albuterol, dantrolene, pentoxifylline, carnitine, Coenzyme Q10, creatine, fish oil, green tea extracts, Vitamin E, PTC-124 (PTC Therapeutics Inc., South Plainfield, NJ), AVI-4658 phosphorodiamidate morpholino oligomer, azathioprine and cyclosporine, are administered orally, topically, systemically, intravenously, subcutaneously, intraperitoneally, or intramuscularly according to methods known in the art. Dosages of the one or more additional therapeutic agents will range between 0.1 mg/kg to 50 mg/kg. Subjects will be evaluated weekly for the presence and/or severity of signs and symptoms associated with DMD, including, but not limited to, e.g., progressive proximal weakness with onset in the legs and pelvis, hyperlordosis with wide-based gait, hypertrophy of weak muscles, pseudohypertrophy (enlargement of calf and deltoid muscles with fat and fibrotic tissue), reduced muscle contractility on electrical stimulation in advanced stages of the disease, delayed motor milestones, progressive inability to ambulate, heel cord contractures, paralysis, fatigue, skeletal deformities including scoliosis, muscle fiber deformities, cardiomyopathy, congestive heart failure or arrhythmia, muscular atrophy, and respiratory disorders.

Results

**[0171]** It is predicted that subjects at risk of having or diagnosed as having DMD and receiving therapeutically effective amounts of aromatic-cationic peptide, such as 2'6'-Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, or D-Arg-2'6'-Dmt-Lys-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, such as acetate, tartrate, or trifluoroacetate salt will display delayed onset of DMD, or prevention of onset of DMD. It is also expected that the blood levels of creatine phosphokinase in DMD subjects treated with the aromatic-cationic peptide will resemble healthy controls. It is further expected that administration of 2'6'-Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, or D-Arg-2'6'-Dmt-Lys-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub> in combination with one or more additional therapeutic agents will have synergistic effects in this regard compared to that observed in subjects treated with aromatic-cationic peptides or the additional therapeutic agents alone.

**[0172]** These results will show that aromatic-cationic peptides, such as 2'6'-Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, or D-Arg-2'6'-Dmt-Lys-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, such as acetate, tartrate, or trifluoroacetate salt are useful in the prevention of DMD. These results will show that aromatic-cationic peptides, such as 2'6'-Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, or D-Arg-2'6'-Dmt-Lys-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, such as acetate, tartrate, or trifluoroacetate salt are useful in preventing or delaying the onset of one or more of the following symptoms: progressive proximal weakness with onset in the legs and pelvis, hyperlordosis with wide-based gait, hypertrophy of weak muscles, pseudohypertrophy (enlargement of calf and deltoid muscles with fat and fibrotic tissue), reduced muscle contractility on electrical stimulation in advanced stages of the disease, delayed motor milestones, progressive inability to ambulate, heel cord contractures, paralysis, fatigue, skeletal deformities including scoliosis, muscle fiber deformities, cardiomyopathy, congestive heart failure or arrhythmia, muscular atrophy, and respiratory disorders.

**[0173]** Accordingly, the peptides are useful in methods comprising administering aromatic-cationic peptides to a subject in need thereof for the prevention of DMD.

Example 3 - Use of Aromatic-Cationic Peptides in the Treatment of DMD in a Mouse Model

**[0174]** This Example demonstrates the use of aromatic-cationic peptides, such as 2'6'-Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, or D-Arg-2'6'-Dmt-Lys-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, such as acetate, tartrate, hydrochloride salt, or trifluoroacetate salt, in the treatment of DMD in a mouse model.

**[0175]** 3-4 week-old male C57BL/10ScSn-Dmd<sup>mdx</sup>/J (*mdx*) and C57BL/10ScSn (wild-type) mice will be housed in an individually vented cage system with a 12-hour light-dark cycle and will receive standard mouse chow and purified water *ad libitum*. The *mdx* mice are randomly assigned to either a sham (untreated) group or aromatic-cationic peptide-treated



group (*mdx*-peptide). Mice in the *mdx*-peptide group are given a daily intraperitoneal injection of peptide (1-16 mg/kg), whereas the sham group will receive a daily intraperitoneal injection of vehicle. All treatments will commence a few days before the beginning of the exercise protocol, and will continue until the day of sacrifice.

**[0176]** *Exercise Protocol and in Vivo Studies.* Wild-type and *mdx* (both sham and peptide-treated) mice will undergo a 30-min run on a horizontal treadmill (Columbus Instruments, Columbus, OH) at 12 m/min, twice a week, for 4 to 8 weeks (Granchelli *et al.*, 2000). The training protocol starts at the mouse age of 3 to 4 weeks. About half of the *mdx* mice will show an avoidance behavior with respect to exercise, with a higher tendency to fatigue, and will have to be gently stimulated, or left resting, to complete the 30-min running session. This behavior is absent in wild-type animals. Every week, all the exercised mice are monitored for body weight. The force for exercised mice (both wild-type controls and *mdx*) is evaluated before each training session by means of a grip strength meter (Columbus Instruments). For this measurement, the mice are allowed to grasp a triangular ring connected to a force transducer, which is then gently pulled away until the grip is broken. The transducer will save the force value at this point, which is a measure of the maximal resistance the animal can use with its forelimbs. Five measurements are taken from each animal within 2 min, and the maximum values are used for statistical analysis. At the end of the 4th week of exercise, the animals will be sacrificed.

**[0177]** *Histology.* Tibialis anterior (TA) muscle is rapidly rinsed in normal physiological solution and immediately frozen in isopentane cooled in liquid nitrogen. The samples are stored at -80°C until used for histological determination. Frozen muscle is cut into 10-mm-thick sections with a cryostat taken from the midpoint of the muscle body and stained with hematoxylin-eosin. A semiquantitative approach will be used to evaluate histopathological indexes and to allow statistical analysis. In particular, within a comparable number of fibers per section taken for each condition, the number of cell showing necrosis, centronucleation, and/or belonging to inflammatory infiltrates is calculated.

**[0178]** *Results.* It is predicted that the untreated *mdx* mice will exhibit weaker forelimb strength compared to age-matched wild-type controls. It is also predicted that the TA muscles of *mdx* mice will be histologically distinguishable from wild type - more disorganized structure due to the presence of necrosis, centronucleated fibers, regenerating fibers, and infiltration of mononuclear inflammatory cells. It is also anticipated that the forelimb strength and the histology of the TA muscles of peptide-treated *mdx* mice will resemble that observed in age-matched wild-type controls.

**[0179]** These results will show that aromatic-cationic peptides, such as 2'6'-Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, or D-Arg-2'6'-Dmt-Lys-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, such as acetate, tartrate, or trifluoroacetate salt are useful in the treatment of DMD in a mouse model. Accordingly, the peptides are useful in methods comprising administering aromatic-cationic peptides to a subject in need thereof for the treatment of DMD.

#### Example 4- Use of Aromatic-Cationic Peptides in the Treatment of DMD in a DBA/2J-*mdx* Mouse Model

**[0180]** This Example demonstrates the use of Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, in the treatment of DMD in a mouse model.

**[0181]** *Methods:* DBA/2J-*mdx* (also known as D2.B10-DMD<sup>mdx</sup>/2J) mice exhibit several of the human characteristics of DMD myopathology (lower hind limb muscle weight, fewer myofibers, increased fibrosis and fat accumulation, and muscle weakness). Left ventricular mitochondrial H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> emission (measured by spectrofluorometry; Amplex UltraRed fluorophore) and respiration (measured by high-resolution respirometry; Oroboros Oxygraph) were assessed in permeabilized muscle fiber bundles (PmFB) from DBA/2J-*mdx* mice (DMD mice) that were about 4 weeks of age, DBA/2J wildtype mice (wt mice) that were about 4 weeks of age, DMD mice treated with daily subcutaneous injections of Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub> (5mg/kg) for 12 weeks (treated DMD mice), and DMD mice treated with daily subcutaneous injections of (0.9%) for 12 weeks (untreated DMD mice). H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> emission was measured in the presence of physiological ADP (25μM). ADP is a suppressor of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> emission during respiration and is affected by the phosphate-shuttling activity of mitochondrial creatine kinase (mtCK). The effect of mtCK was assessed by saturating creatine (Cr) *in vitro*.

**[0182]** *Results:* At 4 weeks of age, ADP-suppression of Complex I-supported H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (5mM Pyruvate/2mM Malate) was impaired in DMD mice in the presence of Cr (+Cr: 36±4% of emission at 0μM ADP in DMD mice as compared to 12±1% of emission at 0μM ADP in wt mice when expressed per O<sub>2</sub> consumed; p<0.01). At 4 weeks, ADP-suppression of Complex I-supported H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> was also observed in DMD mice in the absence of Cr (-Cr: 36±4 % of emission at 0μM ADP in DMD mice as compared to 17±2% of emission at 0μM ADP in wt mice when expressed per O<sub>2</sub> consumed; p<0.01). This data shows that H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> emission is elevated in DMD mice independent of mtCK-dependent phosphate shuttling.

**[0183]** Additionally, at 4 weeks of age, ADP, complex I-supported respiration was lower in DMD mice as compared to wt mice in both +Cr (30.8±5.0 pmol·s<sup>-1</sup>·mg wet wt<sup>-1</sup> in DMD mice as compared to 54.2±10.2 pmol·s<sup>-1</sup>·mg wet wt<sup>-1</sup> in wt mice, p<0.05) and -Cr (35.0±1.2 pmol·s<sup>-1</sup>·mg wet wt<sup>-1</sup> in DMD mice as compared to 52.0±5.4 pmol·s<sup>-1</sup>·mg wet wt<sup>-1</sup> in wt mice, p<0.01).

**[0184]** After treatment of DMD mice for 12 weeks with Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub> or saline, treated DMD mice had greater ADP-suppression of Complex I-supported H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> as compared to untreated DMD mice in +Cr (12±1% (treated DMD mice) vs 15±0% (untreated DMD mice) of emission at 0μM ADP/O<sub>2</sub> consumed, p<0.01). There were no differences

in -Cr (40 $\pm$ 11% (treated DMD mice) vs 42 $\pm$ 13% (untreated DMD mice) of 0 $\mu$ M ADP/O<sub>2</sub> consumed). This data shows that treatment with Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub> improved mtCK-dependent ADP suppression of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> emission in treated DMD mice as compared to untreated DMD mice.

[0185] Treatment with Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub> did not change respiration in treated DMD mice as compared to untreated DMD mice in +Cr (111.4  $\pm$  12.0 pmol $\cdot$ s<sup>-1</sup> $\cdot$ mg wet wt<sup>-1</sup> (treated DMD mice) vs 82.1  $\pm$  11.2 pmol $\cdot$ s<sup>-1</sup> $\cdot$ mg wet wt<sup>-1</sup> (untreated DMD mice), p=0.10) or -Cr (59.6  $\pm$  7.4 (treated DMD mice) vs 65.3  $\pm$  6.8 pmol $\cdot$ s<sup>-1</sup> $\cdot$ mg wet wt<sup>-1</sup> (untreated DMD mice)).

[0186] These results show that Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub> is useful in the treatment of DMD. The results show that Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub> increases the ability of mtCK to mediate ADP-suppression of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> in treated DMD mice as compared to untreated DMD mice. Accordingly, aromatic-cationic peptides disclosed herein are useful for the treatment of DMD.

## EQUIVALENTS

[0187] The present technology is not to be limited in terms of the particular embodiments described in this application, which are intended as single illustrations of individual aspects of the present technology. The present technology is to be limited only by the terms of the appended claims, along with the full scope of equivalents to which such claims are entitled. It is to be understood that this present technology is not limited to particular methods, reagents, compounds compositions or biological systems, which can, of course, vary. It is also to be understood that the terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular embodiments only, and is not intended to be limiting.

[0188] In addition, where features or aspects of the disclosure are described in terms of Markush groups, those skilled in the art will recognize that the disclosure is also thereby described in terms of any individual member or subgroup of members of the Markush group.

[0189] As will be understood by one skilled in the art, for any and all purposes, particularly in terms of providing a written description, all ranges disclosed herein also encompass any and all possible subranges and combinations of subranges thereof. Any listed range can be easily recognized as sufficiently describing and enabling the same range being broken down into at least equal halves, thirds, quarters, fifths, tenths, etc. As a non-limiting example, each range discussed herein can be readily broken down into a lower third, middle third and upper third, etc. As will also be understood by one skilled in the art all language such as "up to," "at least," "greater than," "less than," and the like, include the number recited and refer to ranges which can be subsequently broken down into subranges as discussed above. Finally, as will be understood by one skilled in the art, a range includes each individual member. Thus, for example, a group having 1-3 cells refers to groups having 1, 2, or 3 cells. Similarly, a group having 1-5 cells refers to groups having 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 cells, and so forth.

## Claims

1. A peptide Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub> or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use in treating Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) in a human subject in need thereof.
2. The peptide for the use of claims 1, wherein the peptide is administered daily for 6 weeks or more.
3. The peptide for the use of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the peptide is administered daily for 12 weeks or more.
4. The peptide for the use of any one of claims 1-3, wherein the subject has been diagnosed as having DMD, optionally wherein the subject has signs or symptoms of DMD
5. The peptide for the use of claim 4, wherein the signs or symptoms of DMD comprise one or more of progressive proximal weakness with onset in the legs and pelvis, hyperlordosis with wide-based gait, hypertrophy of weak muscles, pseudohypertrophy (enlargement of calf and deltoid muscles with fat and fibrotic tissue), reduced muscle contractility on electrical stimulation in advanced stages of the disease, delayed motor milestones, progressive inability to ambulate, heel cord contractures, paralysis, fatigue, skeletal deformities including scoliosis, muscle fiber deformities, cardiomyopathy, congestive heart failure or arrhythmia, muscular atrophy, and respiratory disorders.
6. The peptide for the use of any one of claims 1-5, wherein the peptide is administered orally, topically, systemically, intravenously, subcutaneously, transdermally, iontophoretically, intranasally, intraperitoneally, or intramuscularly.
7. The peptide for the use of any one of claims 1-6, further comprising separately, sequentially or simultaneously administering an additional therapeutic agent to the subject.

8. The peptide for the use of claim 7, wherein the additional therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of: corticosteroids, Oxandrolone, ACE inhibitors, P188 (Poloxamer 188), beta-blockers, diuretics, angiotensin receptor blockers (ARBs), idebenone, alendronate, calcium with vitamin D, albuterol, dantrolene, pentoxifylline, carnitine, Coenzyme Q10, creatine, fish oil, green tea extracts, Vitamin E, PTC-124, AVI-4658 phosphorodiamidate morpholino oligomer, azathioprine and cyclosporine.
9. The peptide for the use of any one of claims 1-8, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable salt comprises acetate, tartrate or trifluoroacetate salt.
10. The peptide for the use of any one of claims 1-9, wherein the subject harbors a deletion, duplication, frameshift, or nonsense mutation in the dystrophin gene.

## Patentansprüche

1. Peptid Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub> oder ein pharmazeutisch verträgliches Salz davon zur Verwendung bei der Behandlung von Duchenne-Muskeldystrophie (DMD) bei einem diesbezüglich bedürftigen Probanden.
2. Peptid zur Verwendung nach Anspruch 1, wobei das Peptid täglich über 6 Wochen oder länger verabreicht wird.
3. Peptid zur Verwendung nach Anspruch 1 oder Anspruch 2, wobei das Peptid täglich über 12 Wochen oder länger verabreicht wird.
4. Peptid zur Verwendung nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 3, wobei bei dem Probanden DMD diagnostiziert wurde, optional wobei der Proband Anzeichen oder Symptome von DMD aufweist.
5. Peptid zur Verwendung nach Anspruch 4, wobei die Anzeichen oder Symptome von DMD eines oder mehrere der folgenden umfassen: fortschreitende proximale Schwäche mit Beginn in den Beinen und im Becken, Hyperlordose mit breitbeinigem Gang, Hypertrophie der schwachen Muskeln, Pseudohypertrophie (Vergrößerung der Waden- und Deltamuskeln mit Fett und fibrotischem Gewebe), reduzierte Muskelkontraktilität bei elektrischer Stimulation in fortgeschrittenen Stadien der Krankheit, verzögerte motorische Meilensteine, fortschreitende Unfähigkeit zu gehen, Fersenbeinkontrakturen, Lähmungen, Müdigkeit, Skelettdeformationen einschließlich Skoliose, Muskelfaserdeformationen, Kardiomyopathie, kongestive Herzinsuffizienz oder Herzrhythmusstörungen, Muskelatrophie und Atmungsstörungen.
6. Peptid zur Verwendung nach einem der Ansprüche 1-5, wobei das Peptid oral, topisch, systemisch, intravenös, subkutan, transdermal, iontophoretisch, intranasal, intraperitoneal oder intramuskulär verabreicht wird.
7. Peptid zur Verwendung nach einem der Ansprüche 1-6, weiter umfassend die getrennte, aufeinanderfolgende oder gleichzeitige Verabreichung eines zusätzlichen therapeutischen Mittels an den Probanden.
8. Peptid zur Verwendung nach Anspruch 7, wobei das zusätzliche therapeutische Mittel ausgewählt ist aus der Gruppe bestehend aus: Kortikosteroiden, Oxandrolon, ACE-Inhibitoren, P188 (Poloxamer 188), Betablockern, Diuretika, Angiotensinrezeptorblockern (ARBs), Idebenon, Alendronat, Kalzium mit Vitamin D, Albuterol, Dantrolen, Pentoxifyllin, Carnitin, Coenzym Q10, Kreatin, Fischöl, Grüntee-Extrakte, Vitamin E, PTC-124, AVI-4658 Phosphorodiamidat Morpholino-Oligomer, Azathioprin und Cyclosporin.
9. Peptid zur Verwendung nach einem der Ansprüche 1-8, wobei das pharmazeutisch verträgliche Salz Acetat-, Tartrat- oder Trifluoracetatsalz umfasst.
10. Peptid zur Verwendung nach einem der Ansprüche 1-9, wobei der Proband eine Deletion, Duplikation, Frameshift- oder Nonsense-Mutation im Dystrophin-Gen aufweist.

## Revendications

1. Peptide Phe-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>, ou un sel pharmaceutiquement acceptable de celui-ci, pour son utilisation dans le traitement de la myopathie de Duchenne (DMD) chez un sujet humain le nécessitant.

2. Peptide pour son utilisation selon la revendication 1, dans lequel le peptide est administré une fois par jour pendant 6 semaines ou plus.
3. Peptide pour son utilisation selon la revendication 1 ou la revendication 2, dans lequel le peptide est administré une fois par jour pendant 12 semaines ou plus.
4. Peptide pour son utilisation selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1-3, dans lequel le sujet a été diagnostiqué comme souffrant de DMD, facultativement dans lequel le sujet présente des signes ou des symptômes de DMD.
5. Peptide pour son utilisation selon la revendication 4, dans lequel les signes ou les symptômes de DMD comprennent un ou plusieurs d'une faiblesse proximale progressive débutant dans les jambes et le bassin, d'une hyperlordose avec marche en abduction, d'une hypertrophie des muscles faibles, d'une pseudo-hypertrophie (augmentation des mollets et des muscles deltoïdes avec du tissu adipeux et fibreux), d'une contractilité musculaire réduite sous stimulation électrique aux stades avancés de la maladie, d'un retard du développement moteur, d'une incapacité progressive à marcher, de contractures du tendon d'Achille, d'une paralysie, d'une fatigue, de déformations squelettiques y compris d'une scoliose, de déformations des fibres musculaires, d'une cardiomyopathie, d'une insuffisance cardiaque congestive ou d'une arythmie, d'une atrophie musculaire, et de troubles respiratoires.
6. Peptide pour son utilisation selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1-5, dans lequel le peptide est administré par voie orale, topique, systémique, intraveineuse, sous-cutanée, transdermique, iontophorétique, intranasale, intrapéritonéale, ou intramusculaire.
7. Peptide pour son utilisation selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1-6, comprenant l'administration séparée, séquentielle ou simultanée d'un agent thérapeutique supplémentaire au sujet.
8. Peptide pour son utilisation selon la revendication 7, dans lequel l'agent thérapeutique supplémentaire est sélectionné dans le groupe consistant en : les corticoïdes, l'oxandrolone, les inhibiteurs de l'ECA, P188 (poloxamère 188), les bêtabloquants, les diurétiques, les antagonistes du récepteur de l'angiotensine (ARB), l'idébénone, l'alendronate, le calcium avec de la vitamine D, l'albutérol, le dantrolène, la pentoxifylline, la carnitine, la coenzyme Q10, la créatine, l'huile de poisson, les extraits de thé vert, la vitamine E, PTC-124, un oligomère morpholino-phosphorodiamidate AVI-4658, l'azathioprine et la cyclosporine.
9. Peptide pour son utilisation selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1-8, dans lequel le sel pharmaceutiquement acceptable comprend un sel d'acétate, de tartrate ou de trifluoroacétate.
10. Peptide pour son utilisation selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1-9, dans lequel le sujet héberge une mutation de délétion, de multiplication, de changement de phase, ou non-sens dans le gène de la dystrophine.

## REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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